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**HOUSE BILL NO. 164** 

Offered January 8, 2020 Prefiled December 23, 2019

A BILL to amend and reenact § 17.1-618 of the Code of Virginia, relating to allowances for jurors; unclaimed funds; retention by the court for jury operations or expenses.

Patron—Knight

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 17.1-618 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 17.1-618. Allowances for jurors; expenses of keeping jury together; fees of jury commissioners and commissioner in chancery for drawing of juries.

Every person summoned as a juror in a civil or criminal case shall be entitled to thirty dollars for each day of attendance upon the court for expenses of travel incident to jury service and other necessary and reasonable costs as the court may direct. Jurors summoned from another political subdivision pursuant to § 8.01-363 may be allowed by the court, in addition to the above allowance, their actual expenses. When kept together overnight under the supervision of the court, the jurors and the sheriff or his deputies keeping the jury shall be furnished suitable board and lodging. Reimbursement for board and lodging shall be set by the judge in an amount not to exceed the amount authorized by travel regulations promulgated pursuant to § 2.2-2823. Allowances and other costs will be allowed a juror in only one case the same day.

Every person serving as a jury commissioner and every person serving as a commissioner in chancery for the drawing of juries for a circuit court of this Commonwealth may be allowed, by the court appointing him, a fee not exceeding thirty dollars per day for the time actually engaged in such work and such other necessary and reasonable costs as the court may direct.

Funds held for payment pursuant to this section are exempt from the requirements of the Virginia Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act (§ 55.1-2500 et seq.). Any such funds may be used by the court holding such funds for jury operations or other jury-related expenses if unclaimed by the owner of such funds for more than one year after becoming payable.