



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903

April 29, 2026

Via Electronic Mail (HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)

Chairman Marvin L. Abney
House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Room 35
Providence, R.I. 02903

**RE: House Bill No. 7583: An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure –
Procedure Generally – Fees**

Dear Chairman Abney:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary to express the Judiciary's concerns regarding House Bill No. 7583, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Committee on Finance. If enacted, this bill would increase the daily fee paid to jurors from \$25.00 to \$50.00 commencing July 1, 2026.

The Judiciary recognizes that jurors, while fulfilling their historically vital role in the fair and efficient administration of justice in this state, experience some disruption to their daily lives including work-related matters, travel, and other costs associated with jury service. Providing a mandated rate for each day's attendance goes some way towards compensating jurors for these costs. The Judiciary acknowledges the benefit to jurors of potentially increasing the daily rate for the first time in years.

However, the proposed increase would double the cost to the Judiciary. The Judiciary's budget does not currently have the funding to accommodate this financial increase. This bill as currently written does not make any provisions for additional funding to the Judiciary to pay for the one hundred (100%) daily rate increase envisioned by this legislation. Based on the attached fiscal impact statement, if the proposed daily rate increase is passed, it would cost the Judiciary approximately one million dollars per year, which is a significant impact to the Judiciary's budget.

The Judiciary has no room in its annual budget to absorb such costs. Implementing this increase without providing the Judiciary with an infusion of matching funding would likely require painful cuts to vital Judiciary programs and undermine the overall administration of justice. The Judiciary understands the intention behind this legislation, but requests additional funding to meet the goals of this legislation.

Should this bill move forward, the Judiciary requests that its FY 2027 budget be increased to meet the financial requirements of this legislation, so that the Judiciary can accommodate the financial increase suggested by this proposed legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's financial concerns about this bill.

Sincerely,

Chrisanne Wyrzykowski

Chrisanne Wyrzykowski
General Counsel



TO: Chrisanne Wyrzykowski, General Counsel
CC: Darlene Walsh, Director of Finance & Budget
FROM: Edward J. Cooney, Jr., Executive Director
RE: 2026-S-2141 // 2026-H-7583
DATE: March 10, 2026

This legislation includes increasing the pay of all jurors from twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per day to fifty dollars per day (\$50.00) effective July 1, 2026.

Fiscal Impact

The increases shown below reflect the increases made the actual expenditures in F 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025.

The fiscal impacts below are based upon both the \$25 daily rates.

	Actual Expenses	Proposed Changes	Fiscal Impact
FY 2023	\$ 402,345.00	\$ 804,690.00	\$ 402,345.00
FY 2024	476,725.00	953,450.00	476,725.00
FY 2025	491,246.00	982,492.00	491,246.00
Total	\$ 1,370,316.00	\$ 2,740,632.00	\$ 1,370,316.00

If there is any additional information or clarification you may require, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by email, ecooney@courts.ri.gov, or by phone (401) 275-6529.