

No. 2001-88

## AN ACT

SB 977

Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for senior judge operational support grants.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

**§ 1906. Senior judge operational support grants.**

**(a) Program.**—*The Court Administrator of Pennsylvania shall create a program to defray the costs imposed on counties by the rules of judicial administration for facilities and staff for senior judges assigned to the courts of common pleas.*

**(b) Availability.**—*Grants will be made available to counties based on the level of operational support provided by a county to:*

**(1) Senior judges formerly of the judicial district in which the county is situated who are regularly or periodically assigned in that county or who are assigned pursuant to section 4544 (relating to convening multicounty investigating grand jury).**

**(2) Visiting senior judges.**

**(c) Purpose.**—*Grants will be made available to counties to reimburse them for operational support provided by the county during the preceding calendar year. Grants will be calculated based on use of judicial chambers, utilization of the services of a law clerk and utilization of the services of a secretary, which chambers or services are deemed adequate and appropriate by the Administrative Office as follows:*

**(1) Use of judicial chambers will be reimbursed at the rate of \$60 per day, billable in one-half-day increments.**

**(2) Utilization of services of a law clerk will be reimbursed at \$20 per hour.**

**(3) Utilization of services of a secretary will be reimbursed at \$12 per hour.**

**(d) Reimbursement.**—*Counties will be reimbursed upon timely application by the board of commissioners or, in the absence of a board of commissioners, the executive authority of the county or, in the case of a county which is coterminous with a city of the first class, the mayor of the city of the first class. The application shall be certified by the president judge of the judicial district in which the county is situated, shall include such documentation as may be required by the Administrative Office and shall be submitted as follows:*

**(1) Applications for reimbursement for operational support provided by counties during calendar year 2001 shall be submitted by April 1, 2002, and grants shall be paid by June 30, 2002.**

**(2) The due dates for applications for operational support provided during calendar years beginning January 1, 2002, and thereafter shall be established by the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania.**

**(e) Minimum standards.—The Administrative Office shall set forth minimum standards regarding adequacy, appropriateness and quality of judicial chambers and services required to qualify for reimbursement.**

**(f) Reduction.—In the event that the total reimbursement qualifying for payment for any calendar year exceeds the amount appropriated by the General Assembly for such purpose, the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania shall proportionally reduce the grant for each county so that the total of all grants does not exceed the amount appropriated.**

**(g) Limit on grant amount.—No county shall receive more than 20% of the amount appropriated for senior judge operational support grants in any fiscal year.**

**(h) Report.—Not later than 60 days following payment of grants for any year, the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania shall make a report to the Appropriations Committee of the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives setting forth the payments made to counties and the services provided.**

**(i) Expiration.—This section shall expire on June 30, 2007, unless reenacted prior to that date.**

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 21st day of November, A.D. 2001.

MARK S. SCHWEIKER