

Assembly Bill No. 1884

CHAPTER 388

An act to amend Section 15202 of the Government Code, relating to criminal procedure, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor August 10, 1995. Filed with Secretary of State August 11, 1995.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1884, Allen. Criminal procedure: extraordinary costs.

Existing law authorizes the Controller to reimburse extraordinary costs in unusual homicide cases if the county provides sufficient justification of the need for the expenditures. Reimbursement of costs for travel in excess of 1,000 miles on any single round trip is prohibited without the prior approval of the Attorney General.

This bill instead would require a county, in making a request for reimbursement of extraordinary costs, to include a written statement from the assigned trial judge or the presiding judge that contains the opinion of the court as to whether these costs are reasonably necessary for the prosecution or defense of the case.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 15202 of the Government Code is amended to read:

15202. (a) A county with a population of 300,000 or less, at the time of the 1980 decennial census, which is responsible for the cost of a trial or trials or any hearing of a person for the offense of homicide may apply to the Controller for reimbursement of 90 percent of the costs incurred by the county for each such trial or hearing, without regard to fiscal years, in excess of the amount of money derived by the county from a tax of 0.00625 of 1 percent of the full value of property assessed for purposes of taxation within the county.

(b) (1) A county with a population of 200,000 or less, as of January 1, 1990, which is responsible for the cost of two or more trials or hearings within a fiscal year of a person or persons for the offense of homicide may apply to the Controller for reimbursement of 90 percent of the costs incurred in a fiscal year by the county for the conduct of the first trial within a fiscal year, and 85 percent of the costs incurred in a fiscal year by the county for the conduct of any and all subsequent trials or hearings in excess of the amount of money



derived by the county from a tax of 0.00625 of 1 percent of the full value of property assessed for purposes of taxation within the county.

(2) A county with a population of 200,000 or less, as of January 1, 1990, which, within a fiscal year, is reimbursed for costs incurred by the county for the conduct of only one trial or hearing pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be reimbursed for that one trial or hearing in subsequent fiscal years for costs incurred in those subsequent fiscal years without again being required to expend county funds equal to 0.00625 of 1 percent of the full value of property assessed for purposes of taxation within the county, so long as all reimbursements to the county under this paragraph are for only that one trial or hearing.

For purposes of this subdivision, in determining the costs of a homicide trial, trials, hearing, or hearings, the costs shall include, all pretrial, trial, and posttrial costs incurred in connection with the investigation, prosecution, and defense of a homicide case or cases within a fiscal year, including, but not limited to, the costs incurred by the district attorney, sheriff, public defender, and witnesses, which were reasonably required by the court and participants in the case or cases, and other extraordinary costs associated with the investigation in homicide cases.

(c) A county with a population exceeding 300,000 at the time of the 1980 decennial census which is responsible for the cost of a trial or trials or any hearing of a person for the offense of homicide may apply to the Controller for reimbursement of 80 percent of the costs incurred by the county in excess of the amount of money derived by the county from a tax of 0.00625 of 1 percent, and not in excess of the amount of money derived from a tax of 0.0125 of 1 percent, and for reimbursement of 100 percent of the costs incurred in excess of the amount of money derived from a tax of 0.0125 percent, of the full value of property assessed for purposes of taxation within the county.

(d) The Controller shall not reimburse any county for costs that exceed the standards for travel and per diem expenses set forth in Sections 700 to 715, inclusive, and Section 718 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. The Controller may reimburse extraordinary costs in unusual cases if the county provides sufficient justification of the need for these expenditures. In making a request for reimbursement of extraordinary costs, a county shall include a written statement from the assigned trial judge, or the presiding judge if no trial judge has been assigned, whether, in the opinion of the court, the costs are reasonably necessary for the prosecution or defense of the case. An affirmative statement of necessity by a judge shall constitute prima facie evidence of sufficient justification.

(e) The Legislature recognizes that the conduct of trials for persons accused of homicide should not be hampered or delayed because of a lack of funds available to the counties for that purpose. While this section is intended to provide an equitable basis for determining the allocation to the state of the costs of homicide trials



in any particular county, the rising costs of those trials necessitate an objective study to assure reasonable financial restraints and incentives for cost-effectiveness that do not place an unreasonable burden on the treasury of the smaller counties.

This section shall remain operative only until January 1, 2000, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to resolve a conflict that might jeopardize the prosecution of a mass murder trial and to avoid undue delay in trial proceedings, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

