

**SENATE, No. 2236**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**Senator BRIAN P. STACK**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Diegnan and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Exempts nursing mothers from jury duty.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee with technical review.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/12/2024)**

1 AN ACT concerning exemption from jury service and amending  
2 N.J.S.2B:20-10.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. N.J.S.2B:20-10 is amended to read as follows:

8 2B:20-10. An excuse from jury service shall be granted only if:

9 a. The prospective juror is 75 years of age or older;

10 b. The prospective juror has served as a juror within the last  
11 three years in the county to which the juror is being summoned;

12 c. Jury service will impose a severe hardship due to  
13 circumstances which are not likely to change within the following  
14 year. Severe hardship includes the following circumstances:

15 (1) The prospective juror has a medical inability to serve which  
16 is verified by a licensed physician.

17 (2) The prospective juror will suffer a severe financial hardship  
18 which will compromise the juror's ability to support himself,  
19 herself, or dependents. In determining whether to excuse the  
20 prospective juror, the Assignment Judge shall consider:

21 (a) the sources of the prospective juror's household income; and

22 (b) the availability and extent of income reimbursement; and

23 (c) the expected length of service.

24 (3) The prospective juror has a personal obligation to care for  
25 another, including:

26 (a) a dependent who is sick, is elderly, or has an infirmity or a  
27 minor child, who requires the prospective juror's personal care and  
28 attention, and no alternative care is available without severe  
29 financial hardship on the prospective juror or the person requiring  
30 care; or

31 (b) a child who is one year of age or younger where the  
32 prospective juror is the child's mother and is nursing or expressing  
33 milk for the child.

34 (4) The prospective juror provides highly specialized technical  
35 health care services for which replacement cannot reasonably be  
36 obtained.

37 (5) The prospective juror is a health care worker directly  
38 involved in the care of a person with a mental or physical disability,  
39 and the prospective juror's continued presence is essential to the  
40 personal treatment of that person.

41 (6) The prospective juror is a member of the full-time  
42 instructional staff of a grammar school or high school, the  
43 scheduled jury service is during the school term, and a replacement  
44 cannot reasonably be obtained. In determining whether to excuse

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 the prospective juror or grant a deferral of service, the Assignment  
2 Judge shall consider:  
3 (a) the impact on the school considering the number and  
4 function of teachers called for jury service during the current  
5 academic year; and  
6 (b) the special role of certified special education teachers in  
7 providing continuity of instruction to students with disabilities;  
8 d. The prospective juror is a member of a volunteer fire  
9 department or fire patrol; or  
10 e. The prospective juror is a volunteer member of a first aid or  
11 rescue squad.  
12 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.3)  
13  
14 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to  
15 jurors impaneled on or after the effective date.