

ASSEMBLY, No. 358

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman SEAN T. KEAN

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Exempts judges and justices from jury duty.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** exempting judges and justices from jury duty and
2 amending 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. Grounds for excuse from jury service.

9 An excuse from jury service shall be granted only if:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (c) the expected length of service.

25 (3) The prospective juror has a personal obligation to care for
26 another, including a sick, aged or infirm dependent or a minor child,
27 who requires the prospective juror's personal care and attention, and
28 no alternative care is available without severe financial hardship on
29 the prospective juror or the person requiring care.

30 (4) The prospective juror provides highly specialized technical
31 health care services for which replacement cannot reasonably be
32 obtained.

33 (5) The prospective juror is a health care worker directly
34 involved in the care of a mentally or physically handicapped person,
35 and the prospective juror's continued presence is essential to the
36 regular and personal treatment of that person.

37 (6) The prospective juror is a member of the full-time
38 instructional staff of a grammar school or high school, the
39 scheduled jury service is during the school term, and a replacement
40 cannot reasonably be obtained. In determining whether to excuse
41 the prospective juror or grant a deferral of service, the Assignment
42 Judge shall consider:

43 (a) the impact on the school considering the number and
44 function of teachers called for jury service during the current
45 academic year; and

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 (b) the special role of certified special education teachers in
2 providing continuity of instruction to handicapped students;
3 d. The prospective juror is a member of a volunteer fire
4 department or fire patrol; **【or】**
5 e. The prospective juror is a volunteer member of a first aid or
6 rescue squad; or
7 f. The prospective juror is a justice of the New Jersey Supreme
8 Court, judge of the Superior Court, judge of the Tax Court, judge of
9 a municipal court, judge of the Office of Administrative Law, judge
10 of the Division of Workers' Compensation, or judge of any federal
11 court.
12 (cf: P.L.1995, c.44, s.1)

13
14 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to
15 prospective jurors summoned for jury service on or after the
16 effective date.

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19 STATEMENT

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21 This bill would exempt judges and justices from jury duty in
22 State courts. Specifically, the bill provides that an excuse from jury
23 duty would be granted if the prospective juror is a justice of the
24 New Jersey Supreme Court, judge of the Superior Court, judge of
25 the Tax Court, judge of a municipal court, judge of the Office of
26 Administrative Law, judge of the Division of Workers'
27 Compensation, or judge of any federal court.

28 The bill would take effect immediately and would apply to
29 prospective jurors summoned for jury service on or after the
30 effective date.