

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 114

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Urges New Jersey Supreme Court to adopt a uniform modification to the juror notification system.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging the New Jersey
2 Supreme Court to adopt a uniform modification to the juror
3 notification system.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Jury management in New Jersey is an ongoing
6 responsibility of the Judiciary across 21 counties and 15 vicinages;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, According to one estimate, the New Jersey Judiciary
9 processes more than one million juror summons annually; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Beyond merely assembling source lists of potential jurors,
11 jury management involves dynamic processes of summoning
12 adequate numbers of jurors in the context of determining the need
13 for juror services based on the number of cases actually proceeding
14 to trial, while minimizing inconvenience to New Jersey citizens;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, Given the diverse and changing need for juror services in
17 the widely varying communities, New Jersey jury management has
18 evolved, through the use of electronic reporting, into a highly
19 efficient system of notifying potential jurors whether their services
20 will be needed on a given day, thereby minimizing for potential
21 jurors unproductive time spent at the courthouse, lost wages and
22 other disruptions to normal scheduling; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Notwithstanding the efforts of the courts to determine the
24 daily requirement for juror services, from time to time courts
25 determine that additional jurors will be required for current business
26 day service; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Efficiency would be further enhanced by court-initiated
28 contact with a potential juror with adequate notice of the required
29 reporting time; and

30 **WHEREAS**, No potential juror should be placed in “on call” status
31 following dismissal from jury service for a given day, and current
32 business day, court-initiated contact should permit the potential
33 juror to opt out of reporting for current business day service where
34 reporting to the courthouse by the designated time is impractical;
35 now, therefore,

36
37 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
38 *Jersey:*

39
40 1. The New Jersey Supreme Court is strongly urged to adopt a
41 policy, applicable to all vicinages in the State, that following the
42 dismissal of prospective jurors from service for a given day that jurors
43 not be asked to be on call to check for possible service in the afternoon
44 that same day. However, determination that the presence of additional
45 jurors for the current business day is required, shall be accomplished
46 by court-initiated contact with a prospective juror by a specified time
47 of day established by court directive.

1 2. The Legislature further urges that a juror who has been
2 dismissed from jury service for a given day, once contacted by the
3 court for current business day service, should be granted the
4 opportunity to opt out of reporting for current business day service
5 where reporting to the courthouse by the designated time is
6 impractical.

7
8 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
9 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
10 Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court and the
11 Administrative Director of the Courts.

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14 STATEMENT
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16 This resolution would respectfully urge the New Jersey Supreme
17 Court to adopt a policy, applicable to all vicinages in the State, that
18 following the dismissal of prospective jurors from service for a
19 given day that jurors not be asked to be on call to check for possible
20 service in the afternoon that same day. A determination that the
21 presence of additional jurors for the current business day is
22 required, should instead be accomplished by court-initiated contact
23 with a prospective juror by a specified time of day established by
24 court directive.

25 The resolution further urges that a juror who has been dismissed
26 from jury service for a given day, once contacted by the court for
27 current business day service, should be granted the opportunity to
28 opt out of reporting for current business day service where reporting
29 to the courthouse by the designated time is impractical.