

SENATE, No. 1951

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 20, 1997

By Senators CASEY and BASSANO

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

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

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

7 2B:20-10. Grounds for excuse from jury service.

8 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 three
11 years in the county to which the juror is being summoned;

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

15 (1) The prospective juror has a medical inability to serve which is
16 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, herself,
19 or dependents. In determining whether to excuse the prospective
20 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 a sick, aged or infirm dependent or a minor child,
26 who requires the prospective juror's personal care and attention, and
27 no alternative care is available without severe financial hardship on the
28 prospective juror or the person requiring care.

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

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

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 personal treatment of that person.

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

7 (a) the impact on the school considering the number and function
8 of teachers called for jury service during the current academic year;
9 and

10 (b) the special role of certified special education teachers in
11 providing continuity of instruction to handicapped students;

12 d. The prospective juror is a member of a [volunteer] fire
13 department or fire patrol, volunteer or paid; or

14 e. The prospective juror is a [volunteer] member of a first aid or
15 rescue squad, volunteer or paid.

16 (cf: P.L.1995, c.44, s.1)

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18 2. This act shall take effect immediately .

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STATEMENT

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23 Currently, volunteer members of fire departments, fire patrols, first
24 aid squads and rescue squads are exempt from jury service.

25 This bill would provide that paid members of these organizations
26 would also be exempt from jury service.

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31 Provides exemption from jury service for paid members of fire
32 departments, fire patrols, first aid squads and rescue squads.