
SENATE BILL 5591

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Senators Zarelli, Kline, Costa, McCaslin and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/26/2001. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to a jury duty exemption for sole caregivers; and
2 amending RCW 2.36.100.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.36.100 and 1992 c 93 s 5 are each amended to read as
5 follows:

6 (1) Except for a person who is not qualified for jury service under
7 RCW 2.36.070, no person may be excused from jury service by the court
8 except upon a showing of undue hardship, extreme inconvenience, public
9 necessity, or any reason deemed sufficient by the court for a period of
10 time the court deems necessary. Unless the public need for juries in
11 the court outweighs the individual circumstances of the person
12 summoned, a judge of the court or clerk of the court will excuse a
13 person from acting as a juror upon the request of that person if the
14 person is the sole caregiver for a child or other dependent during the
15 court's normal hours of operation, the person is unable to afford day
16 care or make other arrangements for the care of the dependent, and the
17 person personally attends to the dependent during the court's normal
18 hours of operation.

1 (2) At the discretion of the court's designee, after a request by
2 a prospective juror to be excused, a prospective juror excused from
3 juror service for a particular time may be assigned to another jury
4 term within the twelve-month period. If the assignment to another jury
5 term is made at the time a juror is excused from the jury term for
6 which he or she was summoned, a second summons under RCW 2.36.095 need
7 not be issued.

8 (3) When the jury source list has been fully summoned within a
9 consecutive twelve-month period and additional jurors are needed,
10 jurors who have already served during the consecutive twelve-month
11 period may be summoned again for service. A juror who has previously
12 served may only be excused if he or she served at least two weeks of
13 juror service within the preceding twelve months. An excuse for prior
14 service shall be granted only upon the written request of the
15 prospective juror, which request shall certify the terms of prior
16 service. Prior jury service may include service in superior court, in
17 a court of limited jurisdiction, in the United States District Court,
18 or on a jury of inquest.

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