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HOUSE BILL 2961

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Shewmake and Pollet

Read first time 03/02/20. Referred to Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to excusing breastfeeding mothers from jury  
2 service; and 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 2015 c 7 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) (a) Except for a person who is not qualified for jury service  
7 under RCW 2.36.070 and a breastfeeding mother exempt from jury  
8 service under (b) of this subsection, no person may be excused from  
9 jury service by the court except upon a showing of undue hardship,  
10 extreme inconvenience, public necessity, or any reason deemed  
11 sufficient by the court for a period of time the court deems  
12 necessary.

13 (b) A breastfeeding mother is exempt from jury service unless the  
14 court has provided a designated private space to breastfeed or  
15 express breast milk.

16 (2) At the discretion of the court's designee, after a request by  
17 a prospective juror to be excused, a prospective juror excused from  
18 juror service for a particular time may be assigned to another jury  
19 term within the twelve-month period. If the assignment to another  
20 jury term is made at the time a juror is excused from the jury term

1 for which he or she was summoned, a second summons under RCW 2.36.095  
2 need not be issued.

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

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