

By: Leach

H.B. No. 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the exemption from jury service for persons over a certain age.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 62.106(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person qualified to serve as a petit juror may establish an exemption from jury service if the person:

(1) is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age;

(2) has legal custody of a child younger than 12 years of age and the person's service on the jury requires leaving the child without adequate supervision;

(3) is a student of a public or private secondary school;

(4) is a person enrolled and in actual attendance at an institution of higher education;

(5) is an officer or an employee of the senate, the house of representatives, or any department, commission, board, office, or other agency in the legislative branch of state government;

(6) is summoned for service in a county with a population of at least 200,000, unless that county uses a jury plan under Section 62.011 and the period authorized under Section 62.011(b)(5) exceeds two years, and the person has served as a petit

1 juror in the county during the 24-month period preceding the date
2 the person is to appear for jury service;

3 (7) is the primary caretaker of a person who is unable
4 to care for himself or herself;

5 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b), is summoned
6 for service in a county with a population of at least 250,000 and
7 the person has served as a petit juror in the county during the
8 three-year period preceding the date the person is to appear for
9 jury service; or

10 (9) is a member of the United States military forces
11 serving on active duty and deployed to a location away from the
12 person's home station and out of the person's county of residence.

13 SECTION 2. Section 62.107(c), Government Code, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 (c) A person who files a statement with a clerk of the court,
16 as provided by Subsection (a), claiming an exemption because the
17 person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age, may also claim the permanent
18 exemption on that ground authorized by Section 62.108 by including
19 in the statement filed with the clerk a declaration that the person
20 desires the permanent exemption. Promptly after a statement
21 claiming a permanent exemption on the basis of age is filed, the
22 clerk of the court with whom it is filed shall have a copy delivered
23 to the voter registrar of the county.

24 SECTION 3. Sections 62.108(a), (b), (c), and (e),
25 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

26 (a) A person who is entitled to exemption from jury service
27 because the person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age may establish a

1 permanent exemption on that ground as provided by this section or
2 Section 62.107.

3 (b) A person may claim a permanent exemption:

4 (1) by filing with the voter registrar of the county,
5 by mail or personal delivery, a signed statement affirming that the
6 person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age and desires a permanent
7 exemption on that ground; or

8 (2) in the manner provided by Section 62.107(c).

9 (c) The voter registrar of the county shall maintain a
10 current register indicating the name of each person who has claimed
11 and is entitled to a permanent exemption from jury service because
12 the person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age.

13 (e) A person who has claimed a permanent exemption from jury
14 service because the person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age may rescind
15 the exemption at any time by filing a signed request for the
16 rescission with the voter registrar of the county. Rescission of a
17 permanent exemption does not affect the right of a person who is
18 over 75 [~~70~~] years of age to claim permanent exemption at a later
19 time.

20 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
21 to an exemption from jury service for a person who is summoned to
22 appear for service on or after the effective date of this Act. An
23 exemption from jury service for a person who is summoned to appear
24 for service before the effective date of this Act is covered by the
25 law in effect when the person was summoned, and that law is
26 continued in effect for that purpose.

27 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.