

By: Elkins

H.B. No. 1294

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the exemption from jury service of certain persons with
3 legal custody of a child.

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

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

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

9 (1) is over 70 years of age;

10 (2) has legal custody of a child younger than 15 [~~10~~]
11 years of age and the person's service on the jury requires leaving
12 the child without adequate supervision;

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

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

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

21 (6) is summoned for service in a county with a
22 population of at least 200,000, unless that county uses a jury plan
23 under Section 62.011 and the period authorized under Section
24 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 an
4 invalid unable to care for himself; or

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.

10 SECTION 2. Section 62.106(a), Government Code, as amended
11 by this Act, applies only to exemptions for jury service for a
12 person required to appear for jury service by a summons made on or
13 after September 1, 2003. The exemption of a person required to
14 appear for jury service by a summons made before September 1, 2003,
15 is covered by the law in effect on the date the summons is made, and
16 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.