

By: Harris

S.B. No. 562

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an exemption from jury duty in certain counties.

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

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

Sec. 62.106. EXEMPTION FROM JURY SERVICE. (a) A person qualified to serve as a petit juror may establish an exemption from jury service if the person:

(1) is over 70 years of age;

(2) has legal custody of a child younger than 10 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 an
4 invalid unable to care for himself;

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 (9) except as provided by Subsection (b), was
11 previously summoned to appear in the same county during the
12 36-month period preceding the date the person is to appear as
13 provided by the current summons, regardless of whether the person
14 was selected to serve as a petit juror as a result of the previous
15 summons, and the county in which the person is summoned to appear:

16 (A) has a population of 1.4 million or more; and

17 (B) has within its boundaries at least two
18 municipalities that each have a population of 300,000 or more; or

19 (10) [~~(9)~~] is a member of the United States military
20 forces serving on active duty and deployed to a location away from
21 the person's home station and out of the person's county of
22 residence.

23 (b) Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (a)(8) and (a)(9) do [~~does~~]
24 not apply if the jury wheel in the county has been reconstituted
25 after the date the person served as a petit juror.

26 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
27 to a person summoned to appear for jury service who is required to

1 appear on or after the effective date of this Act. A person
2 summoned to appear for jury service who is required to appear before
3 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on
4 the date the person is required to appear, and the former law is
5 continued in effect for that purpose.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.