

1-1 By: Raymond, Leibowitz (Senate Sponsor - Carona) H.B. No. 319  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2009;  
1-3 May 8, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 23, 2009, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 23, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to an exemption from jury service for certain persons with  
1-9 legal custody of a child.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 62.106(a), Government Code, is amended  
1-12 to read as follows:

1-13 (a) A person qualified to serve as a petit juror may  
1-14 establish an exemption from jury service if the person:

1-15 (1) is over 70 years of age;

1-16 (2) has legal custody of a child younger than 15 ~~[10]~~  
1-17 years of age and the person's service on the jury requires leaving  
1-18 the child without adequate supervision;

1-19 (3) is a student of a public or private secondary  
1-20 school;

1-21 (4) is a person enrolled and in actual attendance at an  
1-22 institution of higher education;

1-23 (5) is an officer or an employee of the senate, the  
1-24 house of representatives, or any department, commission, board,  
1-25 office, or other agency in the legislative branch of state  
1-26 government;

1-27 (6) is summoned for service in a county with a  
1-28 population of at least 200,000, unless that county uses a jury plan  
1-29 under Section 62.011 and the period authorized under Section  
1-30 62.011(b)(5) exceeds two years, and the person has served as a petit  
1-31 juror in the county during the 24-month period preceding the date  
1-32 the person is to appear for jury service;

1-33 (7) is the primary caretaker of a person who is an  
1-34 invalid unable to care for himself;

1-35 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b), is summoned  
1-36 for service in a county with a population of at least 250,000 and  
1-37 the person has served as a petit juror in the county during the  
1-38 three-year period preceding the date the person is to appear for  
1-39 jury service; or

1-40 (9) is a member of the United States military forces  
1-41 serving on active duty and deployed to a location away from the  
1-42 person's home station and out of the person's county of residence.

1-43 SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a person summoned to  
1-44 appear for jury service who is required to appear on or after the  
1-45 effective date of this Act. A person summoned to appear for jury  
1-46 service who is required to appear before the effective date of this  
1-47 Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the  
1-48 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in  
1-49 effect for that purpose.

1-50 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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