

By: Rose

H.B. No. 2164

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to exemptions from jury service.

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 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 and presents a letter from the lieutenant governor, a member of the legislature, or the administrative head of a legislative agency that states that jury service by the officer or employee would cause an undue or extreme burden to the legislature;

(6) is summoned for service in a county with a population of at least 200,000, unless that county uses a jury plan

1 under Section 62.011 and the period authorized under Section
2 62.011(b)(5) exceeds two years, and the person has served as a petit
3 juror in the county during the 24-month period preceding the date
4 the person is to appear for jury service;

5 (7) is the primary caretaker of a person who is an
6 invalid unable to care for himself;

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

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

15 SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a person summoned to
16 appear for jury service who is required to appear on or after the
17 effective date of this Act. A person summoned to appear for jury
18 service who is required to appear before the effective date of this
19 Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the
20 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
21 effect for that purpose.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.