

By: Solomons

H.B. No. 229

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the duties of the county tax assessor-collector and  
3 voter registrar regarding exemptions from jury service.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 62.107(b) and (c), Government Code, are  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (b) A person may also claim an exemption from jury service  
8 under Section 62.106 by filing with the sheriff, voter registrar  
9 [~~tax assessor-collector~~], or district or county clerk of the county  
10 of the person's [~~his~~] residence a sworn statement that sets forth  
11 the ground of and claims the exemption. The name of a person who  
12 claims an [~~his~~] exemption by filing the sworn statement may not be  
13 placed in the jury wheel for the ensuing year.

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

23 SECTION 2. Sections 62.108(b), (c), and (e), Government  
24 Code, are amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

19 SECTION 3. Sections 62.109(c) and (e), Government Code, are  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (c) The clerk of the district court shall promptly notify  
22 the voter registrar of the county ~~[tax assessor-collector]~~ of the  
23 name and address of each person exempted and state whether the  
24 exemption is permanent or for a specified period. The voter  
25 registrar ~~[tax assessor-collector]~~ shall maintain a current  
26 register showing separately the name and address of each person  
27 permanently exempt from jury service under this section and the

1 name and address of each person exempt from jury service under this  
2 section for a specified period.

3 (e) A person exempt from jury service under this section may  
4 rescind the exemption at any time by filing a signed request for the  
5 rescission with the voter registrar of the county [~~tax~~  
6 ~~assessor-collector~~].

7 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
8 to a person claiming an exemption from jury service or rescinding an  
9 exemption from jury service on or after the effective date of this  
10 Act. A person claiming an exemption from jury service or rescinding  
11 an exemption from jury service before the effective date of this Act  
12 is governed by the law in effect on the date the person claims or  
13 rescinds the exemption, and the former law is continued in effect  
14 for that purpose.

15 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.