

By: Herrero

H.B. No. 1090

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to exemption of certain firefighters and police officers  
3 from jury service.

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 12 years  
11 of age and the person's service on the jury requires leaving the  
12 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 herself;

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; ~~[or]~~

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

13 (10) is a firefighter, including a fire chief, who is  
14 a permanent, paid employee of the fire department of a municipality  
15 or county or of a special district or authority that provides  
16 firefighting services; or

17 (11) is a police officer, including a police chief,  
18 who is a permanent, paid employee of the police department of a  
19 municipality or county.

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

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.