

By: Herrero, Lozano

H.B. No. 1226

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to exemption of certain firefighters and police officers 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 12 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 unable
4 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, 2017.