

By: Herrero

H.B. No. 354

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 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. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
21 the establishment of an exemption from jury service for a person  
22 summoned to appear for jury service on a date on or after the  
23 effective date of this Act.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.