

By: Smithee

H.B. No. 1957

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an exemption from jury service for a person who is over the age of 65.

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 65 [~~75~~] 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 SECTION 2. Section 62.107(c), Government Code, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 (c) A person who is over 75 years of age and who files a  
16 statement with a clerk of the court[7] as provided by Subsection  
17 (a)[7] claiming an exemption under Section 62.106(a)(1) [~~because~~  
18 ~~the person is over 75 years of age,~~] may also claim the permanent  
19 exemption [~~on that ground~~] authorized by Section 62.108 by  
20 including in the statement filed with the clerk a declaration that  
21 the person desires the permanent exemption. Promptly after a  
22 statement claiming a permanent exemption on the basis of age is  
23 filed, the clerk of the court with whom it is filed shall have a copy  
24 delivered to the voter registrar of the county.

25 SECTION 3. Section 62.108(a), Government Code, is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27 (a) A person who is over 75 years of age and who is entitled

1 to exemption from jury service under Section 62.106(a)(1) [~~because~~  
2 ~~the person is over 75 years of age~~] may establish a permanent  
3 exemption on the [~~that~~] ground of being over 75 years of age as  
4 provided by this section or Section 62.107.

5       SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
6 the establishment of an exemption from jury service for a person  
7 summoned to appear for jury service on a date on or after the  
8 effective date of this Act.

9       SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.