

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 940 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY RESCHENTHALER, ARGALL, VULAKOVICH, WHITE, KILLION, AUMENT, BREWSTER, HUGHES AND BARTOLOTTA, OCTOBER 31, 2017

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 31, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
 2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juries and jurors,
 3 further providing for exemptions from jury duty.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 4503(a) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
 7 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by
 8 adding a subsection to read:

9 § 4503. Exemptions from jury duty.

10 (a) [General rule] Exemptions.--No person shall be exempt
 11 [or excused] from jury duty except the following:

12 (1) [Persons in active service of the armed forces of
 13 the United States or of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.]

14 (Reserved).

15 (2) [Persons who have served within three years next
 16 preceding on any jury except a person who served as a juror
 17 for fewer than three days in any one year in which case the
 18 exemption period shall be one year.] (Reserved).

1 (3) [Persons demonstrating to the court undue hardship
2 or extreme inconvenience may be excused permanently or for
3 such period as the court determines is necessary, and if
4 excused for a limited period shall, at the end of the period,
5 be assigned to the next jury array.] (Reserved).

6 (4) Spouses, children, siblings, parents, grandparents
7 and grandchildren of victims of criminal homicide under 18
8 Pa.C.S. § 2501 (relating to criminal homicide) who opt not to
9 serve.

10 (5) Persons who have previously served [for a term of 18
11 months] on a Statewide investigating grand jury[, including
12 any extensions thereof,] who opt not to serve.

13 (6) Persons 75 years of age or older who [request to be
14 excused] opt not to serve.

15 (7) Judges and magisterial district judges of the
16 Commonwealth [and judges of the United States as defined in
17 28 U.S.C. § 451 (relating to definitions)] who opt not to
18 serve.

19 (8) [Breastfeeding women who request to be excused.]
20 (Reserved).

21 (9) Judges of the United States as defined in 28 U.S.C.
22 § 451 (relating to definitions) who opt not to serve.

23 (a.1) Excusals.--The following persons may be excused from
24 jury duty upon request for such period as the court determines
25 necessary and, at the end of the period, be assigned to the next
26 jury array:

27 (1) Persons demonstrating to the court undue hardship or
28 extreme inconvenience.

29 (2) Persons in active service of the armed forces of the
30 United States or of this Commonwealth.

1 (3) Persons who have served as jurors within three years
2 next preceding, or one year next preceding for persons
3 serving as jurors for fewer than three days in any one year.

4 (4) Breastfeeding women.

5 (5) Parents or guardians who:

6 (i) have custody of children seven years of age or
7 younger and are the primary caregivers of the children;
8 or

9 (ii) have custody of school-age children excused
10 from compulsory attendance at school or a special
11 education program and who provide instruction for the
12 children.

13 (6) Persons who are primary caregivers of elderly family
14 members or of family members with disabilities.

15 * * *

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.