

JUDICIAL CODE (42 PA.C.S.) - AMEND JURY DUTY EXEMPTIONS AND QUALIFIED
JUROR LIST

Act of Oct. 17, 2002, P.L. 886, No. 128

Cl. 42

Session of 2002

No. 2002-128

SB 572

AN ACT

Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for exemptions from jury duty and for list of qualified jurors.

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

Section 1. Sections 4503 and 4523 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

§ 4503. Exemptions from jury duty.

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

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

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

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

(4) Spouses, children, siblings, parents, grandparents and grandchildren of victims of criminal homicide under 18 Pa.C.S. § 2501 (relating to criminal homicide).

(b) Challenges.--This subchapter shall not affect the existing practice with respect to peremptory challenges and challenges for cause.

§ 4523. List of disqualified jurors.

(a) Maintenance of list.-- The jury selection commission shall create and maintain a list of names of all prospective jurors who have been disqualified and the reasons for their disqualification. The list shall be open for public inspection.

(b) Relatives of criminal homicide victims.--Any persons who are exempt or excused from jury duty under section 4503(a) (4) (relating to exemptions from jury duty) may petition the jury selection commission to have their names placed on the list of disqualified jurors. Any persons so placed on the list may, at any time, petition for removal of their names from the list unless they are otherwise disqualified under section 4502 (relating to qualifications of jurors).

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

APPROVED--The 17th day of October, A. D. 2002.

MARK S. SCHWEIKER