

## HB 1143 -- Jury Duty

Sponsor: Pratt

This bill makes several changes to the laws regarding jury duty. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Removes attorneys from the list of persons disqualified from serving as jurors;
- (2) Requires verifying documentation from a physician for persons to be disqualified for mental or physical illness or infirmity;
- (3) Removes clergymen, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors, dentists, and pharmacists from the list of persons who may be excused from serving as jurors;
- (4) Increases from one to two years the time within which prior jury duty service will qualify a person to be excused from current jury duty service;
- (5) Allows a person to be excused from jury duty service after a judicial determination that it would impose an undue or extreme physical or financial hardship and defines those circumstances. Currently, that basis is that jury duty would impose an extreme hardship. Written documentation to support the hardship claimed must be provided by the person seeking the determination;
- (6) Allows prospective jurors a one-time automatic postponement of their jury service start date under certain conditions;
- (7) Changes the penalty for failure to appear for jury duty from criminal contempt with up to a \$250 fine to civil contempt with up to a \$500 fine and community service;
- (8) Establishes the Lengthy Trial Fund to provide additional compensation to jurors serving more than 10 days to be funded by a \$20 fee collected in certain civil case filings. Administration and implementation of the fund are set out; and
- (9) Prohibits employers from requiring employees to use annual, vacation, personal, or sick leave for time spent responding to a jury duty summons, participating in jury selection, or serving on a jury.