

HCS SB 405 -- JURY SERVICE

SPONSOR: Koster (Byrd)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 12 to 1.

This substitute provides that when a prospective juror seeks an excuse from jury duty based on a hardship, the person must submit documentation as may be required by the judge. When a prospective juror seeks a postponement of jury duty, the substitute provides that the court, rather than the prospective juror, will select the new date for jury duty.

The substitute also allows any person licensed as a healthcare provider and any employee of a religious institution whose obligations or constraints prevent them from serving on a jury to be excused from jury duty.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill gives the judge the authority to require documentation from potential jurors, but does not require it.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Koster; and Office of State Courts Administrator.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Amy Woods, Senior Legislative Analyst