

HCS HB 1100 -- JURY DUTY

SPONSOR: Pratt (Schaaf)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute exempts from jury duty any woman who is breastfeeding. The woman must provide a written statement to the court certifying that she is actually breastfeeding and requesting that she be excused.

The substitute also disqualifies licensed attorneys from jury service.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow breastfeeding mothers to postpone their jury service during the time they are breastfeeding. Nursing mothers do not feed their infants on a regular schedule. If nursing mothers are forced to withhold feeding for long periods during jury service, the risk of infection to the nursing mother increases. Since some children will not take artificial nipples, those infants will be more susceptible to sickness when their mothers are serving on a jury.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schaaf; Dr. Melissa Plum; and Dacia Rocco.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alex Curchin, Legislative Analyst