

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1741

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MEINERS.

Read 1st time January 17, 2008 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

4197L.01I

AN ACT

To repeal section 494.430, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to certain persons being excused from jury service.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 494.430, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 494.430, to read as follows:

494.430. 1. Upon timely application to the court, the following persons shall be excused from service as a petit or grand juror:

(1) Any person who has served on a state or federal petit or grand jury within the preceding two years;

(2) Any person whose absence from his or her regular place of employment would, in the judgment of the court, tend materially and adversely to affect the public safety, health, welfare or interest;

(3) Any person upon whom service as a juror would in the judgment of the court impose an undue or extreme physical or financial hardship;

(4) Any person licensed as a health care provider as such term is defined in section 538.205, RSMo, but only if such person provides a written statement to the court certifying that he or she is actually providing health care services to patients, and that the person's service as a juror would be detrimental to the health of the person's patients;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16 (5) Any employee of a religious institution whose religious obligations or constraints
17 prohibit their serving on a jury. The certification of the employment and obligation or constraint
18 may be provided by the employee's religious supervisor;

19 **(6) Any person sixty-five years of age or older or any individual with disabilities**
20 **as defined in section 191.850, RSMo, who chooses to be excused from jury service. Such**
21 **person shall choose to be excused for a period of two years or shall choose to be excused**
22 **permanently and shall indicate which period of time they have chosen in their application**
23 **to the court.**

24 2. A judge of the court for which the individual was called to jury service shall make
25 undue or extreme physical or financial hardship determinations. The authority to make these
26 determinations is delegable only to court officials or personnel who are authorized by the laws
27 of this state to function as members of the judiciary.

28 3. A person asking to be excused based on a finding of undue or extreme physical or
29 financial hardship must take all actions necessary to have obtained a ruling on that request by no
30 later than the date on which the individual is scheduled to appear for jury duty.

31 4. Unless it is apparent to the court that the physical hardship would significantly impair
32 the person's ability to serve as a juror, for purposes of sections 494.400 to 494.460 undue or
33 extreme physical or financial hardship is limited to circumstances in which an individual would:

34 (1) Be required to abandon a person under his or her personal care or supervision due
35 to the impossibility of obtaining an appropriate substitute caregiver during the period of
36 participation in the jury pool or on the jury; or

37 (2) Incur costs that would have a substantial adverse impact on the payment of the
38 individual's necessary daily living expenses or on those for whom he or she provides the
39 principal means of support; or

40 (3) Suffer physical hardship that would result in illness or disease.

41 5. Undue or extreme physical or financial hardship does not exist solely based on the fact
42 that a prospective juror will be required to be absent from his or her place of employment.

43 6. A person asking a judge to grant an excuse based on undue or extreme physical or
44 financial hardship shall provide the judge with documentation as required by the judge, such as,
45 but not limited to, federal and state income tax returns, medical statements from licensed
46 physicians, proof of dependency or guardianship, and similar documents, which the judge finds
47 to clearly support the request to be excused. Failure to provide satisfactory documentation shall
48 result in a denial of the request to be excused. Such documents shall be filed under seal.

49 7. After two years, a person excused from jury service shall become eligible once again
50 for qualification as a juror unless the person was excused from service permanently. A person
51 is excused from jury service permanently only when the deciding judge determines that the

52 underlying grounds for being excused are of a permanent nature **or the person excused is sixty-**
53 **five years of age or older or is an individual with disabilities and has chosen to be**
54 **permanently excused.**