

Introduced: 2/20/79
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY PARKER

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 252

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the qualifications and selection of
7 jurors."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 09.20.010(3) is amended to read:

10 (3) at least 18 [19] years of age;

11 * Sec. 2. AS 09.20.020 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 09.20.020. DISQUALIFICATION OF JURORS. A person is disquali-
13 fied to act as a juror if he [(1) HAS SERVED AS A JUROR IN THE STATE
14 WITHIN ONE YEAR OF HIS TIME OF EXAMINATION FOR SERVICE: (2)] has been
15 convicted of a felony and his civil rights have not been restored.

16 * Sec. 3. AS 09.20.025 is amended to read:

17 Sec. 09.20.025. LIMITATION ON JURY SERVICE. No person may be
18 required to serve more than three months as a juror during any consecu-
19 tive two-year period. However, if a person is serving as a juror at the
20 conclusion of the three months period, he shall complete the trial then
21 in progress. In this section, "serve" means actual attendance required
22 by the court as a member of a jury panel.

23 * Sec. 4. AS 09.20.030 is amended to read:

24 Sec. 09.20.030. EXEMPTIONS AND DEFERRAL OF SERVICE. (a) A person
25 may claim exemption and may be excused from service as a juror if it is
26 shown that jury service will cause him to suffer material injury or
27 destruction to his property or to the property entrusted to him, or if
28 his health, the health or proper care of his family, or the sickness or
29 death of a member of his family, or other substantial hardship to him-

1 self or others makes it necessary for him to be excused [, OR IF HE IS
2 (1) A JUDICIAL OFFICER: (2) ANY OTHER CIVIL OFFICER OF THE STATE OR
3 UNITED STATES WHOSE DUTIES ARE AT THE TIME INCONSISTENT WITH HIS
4 ATTENDANCE OR SERVICE AS A JUROR: (3) AN ATTORNEY: (4) A MINISTER OF
5 THE GOSPEL OR PRIEST OF ANY DENOMINATION: (5) A TEACHER IN A UNIVER-
6 SITY, COLLEGE, ACADEMY, OR SCHOOL: (6) A PRACTICING PHYSICIAN: (7) A
7 PRACTICING DENTIST].

8 (b) A person may request that his jury service be deferred if it
9 is shown that jury service at the time for which he is summoned will
10 cause hardship to himself or others. Jury service may not be deferred
11 for more than six months from the date the initial jury service was to
12 begin.

13 * Sec. 5. AS 09.20.050(c) is amended to read:

14 (c) A copy of the appropriate portion of the jury list shall be
15 transmitted to the presiding judge of each judicial district [ONLY TO
16 EACH DISTRICT JUDGE AND EACH SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE,] and shall only be
17 used to summon jurors and for other state governmental purposes. To
18 the extent possible, duplicate names and the names of deceased persons
19 and persons excused from jury service shall be eliminated from the list
20 before it is transmitted to the presiding judge. A questionnaire for
21 prospective jurors may be adopted and submitted to them by the adminis-
22 trative director of courts.

23 * Sec. 6. AS 09.20.060 is amended to read:

24 Sec. 09.20.060. USE OF JURY BOX OR COMPUPTER LIST. The clerk of
25 the court shall write the names included in the list on separate pieces
26 of paper or prepare metal, plastic, or other types of pieces to corres-
27 pond to numbers on the jury list. As directed by the court, he shall
28 deposit the named or numbered pieces in the jury box in a number and
29 manner to assure a fair and impartial drawing of the jury panel. A

1 randomly generated computer list of prospective jurors may be used in
2 place of the jury box. The jury box, [AND] the named or numbered
3 pieces, and the computer list may be examined by the parties or by an
4 attorney authorized to practice law in the state within limitations and
5 under conditions prescribed by the court.

6 * Sec. 7. AS 09.20.070 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 09.20.070. PUBLIC DRAWING FOR JURORS FOR PANEL. Under the
8 direction of the court the clerk shall conduct the public drawing of
9 jurors for the panel by shaking the box to mix the named or numbered
10 pieces. The clerk shall then draw as many names or numbers as are
11 ordered by the court to fill the jury panel. A random selection of the
12 jury panel by computer may be used in place of the public drawing of
13 names. If the name or number of a person is drawn [FROM THE BOX] and
14 the person is deceased, unqualified, disqualified, or the person's
15 attendance cannot be obtained within a reasonable time or may involve a
16 large and unnecessary expense, and the fact appears to the satisfaction
17 of the court through the use of questionnaires or otherwise, the court
18 may reject the name of that person and direct that the name or number of
19 another be drawn in his place.

20 * Sec. 8. AS 09.20.080 is repealed and re-enacted to read:

21 Sec. 09.20.080. JURY PANEL. (a) The jury panel for the trial of
22 civil cases shall consist of at least double the number of jurors
23 actually needed to serve on the trial jury, including any alternate
24 jurors. If at any time the number of jurors on the panel falls below
25 this number or the regular panel is exhausted, the court shall order the
26 clerk to complete the panel or secure additional jurors by drawing
27 sufficient names from the jury box or by obtaining additional names from
28 the randomly generated computer list.

29 (b) If the list of prospective jurors for a court location fails

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to produce sufficient names to constitute a jury panel of minimum size, the administrative director of courts may authorize that additional names of prospective jurors be secured from sources other than those enumerated in AS 09.20.050, provided that the names of the additional prospective jurors are randomly selected.