

Introduced: 2/10/81  
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY PARR

2 SENATE BILL NO. 171

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to jurors and jury panels."

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

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

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

10 \* Sec. 2. AS 09.20.025 is amended to read:

11 Sec. 09.20.025. LIMITATION ON JURY SERVICE. No person may be  
12 required to serve more than a total of three months as a juror during  
13 any consecutive two-year period. However, if a person is serving as a  
14 juror at the conclusion of the three months period, he shall complete  
15 the trial then in progress. In this section, a person is "serving as  
16 a juror" whenever he is in attendance in court as a member of a jury or  
17 a jury panel.

18 \* Sec. 3. AS 09.20.030 is amended to read:

19 Sec. 09.20.030. EXEMPTIONS AND DEFERRAL OF SERVICE. (a) A  
20 person may claim exemption and may be excused from service as a juror  
21 if it is shown that jury service will cause him to suffer material  
22 injury or destruction to his property or to the property entrusted to  
23 him, or if his health, the health or proper care of his family, or  
24 other substantial hardship to himself or others [THE SICKNESS OR DEATH  
25 OF A MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY] makes it necessary for him to be excused [,  
26 OR IF HE IS (1) A JUDICIAL OFFICER; (2) ANY OTHER CIVIL OFFICER OF  
27 THE STATE OR UNITED STATES WHOSE DUTIES ARE AT THE TIME INCONSISTENT  
28 WITH HIS ATTENDANCE OR SERVICE AS A JUROR; (3) AN ATTORNEY; (4) A  
29 MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL OR PRIEST OF ANY DENOMINATION; (5) A TEACHER

1 IN A UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, ACADEMY, OR SCHOOL: (6) A PRACTICING PHYSI-  
2 CIAN: (7) A PRACTICING DENTIST].

3 (b) A person may have his jury service deferred if he shows that  
4 jury service at the time for which he is summoned will cause hardship  
5 to himself or others. Jury service may not be deferred for more than  
6 10 months from the date the initial jury service was to begin.

7 \* Sec. 4. AS 09.20.050(c) is amended to read:

8 (c) A copy of the appropriate portion of the jury list shall be  
9 transmitted to the presiding judge of each judicial district [ONLY TO  
10 EACH DISTRICT JUDGE AND EACH SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE,] and shall only be  
11 used to summon jurors and for other purposes of judicial administration.  
12 Duplicate names and the names of deceased persons and persons per-  
13 manently excused from jury service shall be eliminated from the list  
14 before it is transmitted to the presiding judge [STATE GOVERNMENTAL  
15 PURPOSES]. A questionnaire for prospective jurors may be adopted and  
16 submitted to them by the administrative director of courts.

17 \* Sec. 5. AS 09.20.060 is amended to read:

18 Sec. 09.20.060. USE OF JURY BOX OR COMPUTER LIST. The clerk of  
19 the court shall write the names included in the list on separate pieces  
20 of paper or prepare metal, plastic, or other types of pieces to corres-  
21 pond to numbers on the jury list. As directed by the court, he shall  
22 deposit the named or numbered pieces in the jury box in a number and  
23 manner to assure a fair and impartial drawing of the jury panel. A  
24 randomly generated computer list of prospective jurors may be used in  
25 place of the jury box. The jury box and the named or numbered pieces,  
26 or the computer list may be examined by the parties or by an attorney  
27 authorized to practice law in the state within limitations and under  
28 conditions prescribed by the court.

29 \* Sec. 6. AS 09.20.070 is amended to read:

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

14 \* Sec. 7. AS 09.20.080 is repealed and reenacted to read:

15           Sec. 09.20.080. JURY PANEL. (a) The jury panel for the trial of  
16 civil cases consists of at least twice the number of jurors needed to  
17 serve on a trial jury, including any needed alternate jurors. If the  
18 number of jurors on the panel falls below the number required by this  
19 section or if the regular panel is exhausted, the court shall order the  
20 clerk to complete the panel or to secure additional jurors by drawing  
21 names from the jury box or by obtaining names from the randomly gener-  
22 ated computer list.

23           (b) If the list of prospective jurors for a court location does  
24 not produce sufficient names for a jury panel of minimum size, the  
25 administrative director of courts may authorize that additional names  
26 of prospective jurors be randomly selected from sources other than  
27 those listed in AS 09.20.050.