

Introduced: 2/10/81
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY PARR

2 SENATE BILL NO. 171 am

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 (b) The following classifications may claim exemption and may be
27 excused from service as a juror

28 (1) a judicial officer; and

29 (2) an attorney.

1 [, OR IF HE IS (1) A JUDICIAL OFFICER: (2) ANY OTHER CIVIL OFFICER OF
2 THE STATE OR UNITED STATES WHOSE DUTIES ARE AT THE TIME INCONSISTENT
3 WITH HIS ATTENDANCE OR SERVICE AS A JUROR: (3) AN ATTORNEY: (4) A
4 MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL OR PRIEST OF ANY DENOMINATION: (5) A TEACHER
5 IN A UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, ACADEMY, OR SCHOOL: (6) A PRACTICING PHYSI-
6 CIAN: (7) A PRACTICING DENTIST]

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

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

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

21 * Sec. 5. AS 09.20.060 is amended to read:

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

1 or the computer list may be examined by the parties or by an attorney
2 authorized to practice law in the state within limitations and under
3 conditions prescribed by the court.

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

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

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

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

27 (b) If the list of prospective jurors for a court location does
28 not produce sufficient names for a jury panel of minimum size, the
29 administrative director of courts may authorize that additional names

1 of prospective jurors be randomly selected from sources other than
2 those listed in AS 09.20.050.
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