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196

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BILL NUMBER SB 196

SPONSOR Duncan

BILL TITLE Excusing persons from jury service.

DATE REFERRED 2-28-89

HEARING SCHEDULED

FISCAL NOTE PREPARED

SPONSOR CONTACTED

INTERESTED PARTIES CONTACTED

Jan Strandberg, Ct. System ~~to~~ 264-8228

OTHER

Court system opposes strongly. Now must declare hardship under oath. Most people defer till convenient. Thought was working well.

1 IN THE SENATE

BY DUNCAN

2

SENATE BILL NO. 196

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to excusing persons from jury ser-
7 vice; and amending Rule 15(k)(2) of the Alaska Rules
8 Governing the Administration of All Courts."

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

10 * Section 1. AS 09.20.030 is amended to read:

11 Sec. 09.20.030. EXEMPTIONS. A person may claim exemption and
12 may be excused from service as a juror if

13 (1) the person demonstrates that the jury service would
14 cause undue hardship or extreme inconvenience to the person, the
15 person's family, the person's employer, or the public served by the
16 person; [IT IS SHOWN THAT THE PERSON'S HEALTH, THE HEALTH OR PROPER
17 CARE OF THE PERSON'S FAMILY, A PERMANENT PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABIL-
18 ITY, OR OTHER SUBSTANTIAL HARDSHIP EXPECTED TO LAST MORE THAN TWO
19 YEARS MAKES IT NECESSARY FOR THE PERSON TO BE EXCUSED,] or

20 (2) [IF] the person is a judicial officer.

21 * Sec. 2. AS 09.20.030 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

22 (b) In making a determination under (a)(1) of this section, the
23 judge shall carefully consider and weigh the public need for juries
24 that are representative of the full community against the individual
25 circumstances offered as a justification for excuse from jury service.

26 (c) A person may request and be granted excuse from jury service
27 under (a) of this section by telephone or mail.

28 * Sec. 3. This Act has the effect of amending Rule 15(k)(2) of the
29 Alaska Rules Governing the Administration of All Courts by altering the

1 reasons for which an exemption from jury service may be granted.