



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Raised Bill No. 58

LCO No. 786

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

An Act Concerning Jurors.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 51-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) All jurors shall be electors, or citizens of the United States who
4 are residents of this state having a permanent place of abode in this
5 state and appear on the list compiled by the Jury Administrator under
6 subsection (b) of section 51-222a, who have reached the age of
7 eighteen. A person shall be disqualified to serve as a juror if such
8 person (1) is found by a judge of the Superior Court to exhibit any
9 quality which will impair his capacity to serve as a juror, except that
10 no person shall be disqualified on the basis of deafness or hearing
11 impairment; (2) has been convicted of a felony within the past seven
12 years or is a defendant in a pending felony case or is in the custody of
13 the Commissioner of Correction; (3) is not able to speak and
14 understand the English language; (4) is the Governor, Lieutenant
15 Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or Attorney
16 General; (5) is a judge of the Probate Court, Superior Court, Appellate
17 Court or Supreme Court, is a family support magistrate or is a federal

18 court judge; (6) is a member of the General Assembly, provided such
19 disqualification shall apply only while the General Assembly is in
20 session; (7) is seventy years of age or older and chooses not to perform
21 juror service; or (8) is incapable, by reason of a physical or mental
22 disability, of rendering satisfactory juror service. Any person claiming
23 a disqualification under subdivision (8) of this subsection must submit
24 to the Jury Administrator a letter from a licensed physician stating the
25 physician's opinion that such disability prevents the person from
26 rendering satisfactory juror service. In reaching such opinion, the
27 physician shall apply the following guideline: A person shall be
28 capable of rendering satisfactory juror service if such person is able to
29 perform a sedentary job requiring close attention for six hours per day,
30 with short work breaks in the morning and afternoon sessions, for at
31 least three consecutive business days.

32 (b) The Jury Administrator may determine, in such manner and at
33 such times as he deems feasible, whether any person is qualified to
34 serve as juror under this section and whether any person may be
35 excused for extreme hardship.

36 (c) The Jury Administrator shall have the authority to establish and
37 maintain a list of persons to be excluded from the summoning process,
38 which shall consist of (1) persons who are disqualified from serving on
39 jury duty on a permanent basis due to a permanent documented
40 medical condition, (2) persons over seventy years of age who have
41 requested not to be summoned, and (3) elected officials enumerated in
42 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section and judges enumerated
43 in subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section during their term of
44 office. Persons requesting to be excluded pursuant to subdivisions (1)
45 and (2) of this subsection must provide the Jury Administrator with
46 their name, address, date of birth and federal Social Security number
47 for use in matching. The request to be excluded may be rescinded at
48 any time with written notice to the Jury Administrator.

49 Sec. 2. Section 51-219a of the general statutes is repealed and the

50 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

51 (a) The Jury Administrator, who is appointed in accordance with
52 section 51-10 and subject to supervision by the Chief Court
53 Administrator, shall be responsible for qualifying, summoning,
54 selecting, managing and utilizing jurors in the Superior Court.

55 (b) The Jury Administrator, subject to the approval of the Chief
56 Court Administrator, shall have the authority to study and to
57 implement procedures for the improvement of jury administration, for
58 the reduction of costs of selection and management of jurors, and for
59 the more effective utilization of jurors.

60 (c) The Jury Administrator shall have the authority to cancel the
61 service of any juror for good cause, including, but not limited to, the
62 following: (1) The town in which the juror resides is reassigned to a
63 different judicial district than that to which the juror was originally
64 summoned, or (2) there is a reduction in the need for jurors. When jury
65 service is canceled due to a reduction in the need for jurors,
66 individuals shall be selected on a random basis for cancellation of jury
67 service.

68 (d) The Jury Administrator shall have the authority to receive a list
69 of deceased persons from the Department of Health and to remove
70 said persons from the lists compiled pursuant to section 51-222a, as
71 amended by this act. The Jury Administrator may exclude the names
72 of additional deceased persons if supplied with a death certificate or
73 other proof satisfactory to the Jury Administrator.

74 Sec. 3. Section 51-222a of the general statutes, as amended by section
75 38 of public act 99-268, is repealed and the following is substituted in
76 lieu thereof:

77 (a) Annually, upon the request of the Jury Administrator, the
78 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall supply the Jury Administrator
79 with the latest updated file of licensed motor vehicle operators for the

80 state. Upon the request of the Jury Administrator, the Commissioner of
81 Revenue Services shall supply the Jury Administrator with the most
82 recent updated list of residents of this state who have a permanent
83 place of abode in this state and who filed a return on personal income
84 under chapter 229 in the last tax year, and the Labor Commissioner
85 shall supply the Jury Administrator with the most recent updated list
86 of residents of this state who are recipients of unemployment
87 compensation under chapter 567. In addition, upon the request of the
88 Jury Administrator, the registrars of voters of each town shall supply a
89 list of all electors from their town, except that in lieu of such list from
90 the registrars of voters, the Jury Administrator may obtain the list of all
91 electors from a central repository, or if such list is not available, may
92 contract for the creation and purchase of such list. The registrars of
93 voters shall provide lists of electors to the contractor at the request of
94 the Jury Administrator. Annually, upon the request of the Jury
95 Administrator, the Commissioner of Health shall supply the Jury
96 Administrator with the most recent updated list of deceased persons.
97 The lists supplied to the Jury Administrator under this subsection shall
98 be in the format prescribed by the Jury Administrator and shall
99 include, at a minimum, the name, address and, if available, date of
100 birth of each person on such list or the reason for the unavailability.
101 The lists supplied by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, the
102 Commissioner of Revenue Services, the Commissioner of Health and
103 the Labor Commissioner to the Jury Administrator under this
104 subsection shall also include the federal Social Security number of each
105 person on such list or the reason for the unavailability. The lists of
106 electors supplied to the Jury Administrator by registrars of voters or
107 the Secretary of the State under this subsection shall not include
108 federal Social Security numbers of persons on such lists.

109 (b) The Jury Administrator shall compile a list of names of electors,
110 residents of this state appearing on the most recent updated list of
111 operators of motor vehicles licensed pursuant to chapter 246, residents
112 who filed a return on personal income under chapter 229 in the last tax
113 year and recipients of unemployment compensation under chapter

114 567.

115 (c) Annually the Jury Administrator shall combine the names from
116 the lists compiled under subsection (b) of this section. The Jury
117 Administrator shall delete, where possible, duplicate names in order to
118 insure that names occurring on any list are given only a single chance
119 to be selected, and shall be authorized to delete, where possible, the
120 names of persons who may be excluded from the list compiled
121 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-217, as amended by section 1 of
122 this act, and the names appearing on the list of deceased persons
123 supplied by the Commissioner of Health.

124 (d) The Jury Administrator shall select, by random from the list
125 compiled as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the number of
126 names required by section 51-220. These names for each town in the
127 state and the names of persons whose jury service was continued from
128 the previous jury year shall constitute such town's final list of
129 prospective jurors for service starting the next succeeding September.
130 The final list for each town shall contain the name and street address of
131 each prospective juror. In the event that a new master file is
132 unavailable or defective, the Chief Court Administrator may authorize
133 the Jury Administrator to continue to summon jurors from the list
134 compiled pursuant to subsection (c) of this section during the previous
135 year.

136 (e) If the Jury Administrator determines at any time that there is a
137 need to supplement the number of names on the final list of jurors for
138 each town within a judicial district, the Jury Administrator, so far as he
139 or she is able, shall select in proportion to the population of each town,
140 by random, from the names not selected pursuant to subsection (d) of
141 this section such number of prospective jurors as the Jury
142 Administrator determines is necessary.

143 Sec. 4. Section 51-222a of the general statutes, as amended by section
144 38 of public act 99-268 and section 3 of this act, is repealed and the
145 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

146 (a) Annually, upon the request of the Jury Administrator, the
147 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall supply the Jury Administrator
148 with the latest updated file of licensed motor vehicle operators for the
149 state. Upon the request of the Jury Administrator, the Commissioner of
150 Revenue Services shall supply the Jury Administrator with the most
151 recent updated list of residents of this state who have a permanent
152 place of abode in this state and who filed a return on personal income
153 under chapter 229 in the last tax year, and the Labor Commissioner
154 shall supply the Jury Administrator with the most recent updated list
155 of residents of this state who are recipients of unemployment
156 compensation under chapter 567. In addition, upon the request of the
157 Jury Administrator, the registrars of voters of each town shall supply a
158 list of all electors from their town, except that in lieu of such list from
159 the registrars of voters, the Jury Administrator may obtain the list of all
160 electors from a central repository, or if such list is not available, may
161 contract for the creation and purchase of such list. The registrars of
162 voters shall provide lists of electors to the contractor at the request of
163 the Jury Administrator. Annually, upon the request of the Jury
164 Administrator, the Commissioner of Health shall supply the Jury
165 Administrator with the most recent updated list of deceased persons.
166 The lists supplied to the Jury Administrator under this subsection shall
167 be in the format prescribed by the Jury Administrator and shall
168 include, at a minimum, the name, address and [, if available,] date of
169 birth of each person on such list. [or the reason for the unavailability.]
170 The lists supplied by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, the
171 Commissioner of Revenue Services, the Commissioner of Health and
172 the Labor Commissioner to the Jury Administrator under this
173 subsection shall also include the federal Social Security number of each
174 person on such list or the reason for the unavailability. The lists of
175 electors supplied to the Jury Administrator by registrars of voters or
176 the Secretary of the State under this subsection shall not include
177 federal Social Security numbers of persons on such lists.

178 (b) The Jury Administrator shall compile a list of names of electors,
179 residents of this state appearing on the most recent updated list of

180 operators of motor vehicles licensed pursuant to chapter 246, residents
181 who filed a return on personal income under chapter 229 in the last tax
182 year and recipients of unemployment compensation under chapter
183 567.

184 (c) Annually the Jury Administrator shall combine the names from
185 the lists compiled under subsection (b) of this section. The Jury
186 Administrator shall delete, where possible, duplicate names in order to
187 insure that names occurring on any list are given only a single chance
188 to be selected, and shall be authorized to delete, where possible, the
189 names of persons who may be excluded from the list compiled
190 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-217, as amended by section 1 of
191 this act, and the names appearing on the list of deceased persons
192 supplied by the Commissioner of Health.

193 (d) The Jury Administrator shall select, by random from the list
194 compiled as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the number of
195 names required by section 51-220. These names for each town in the
196 state and the names of persons whose jury service was continued from
197 the previous jury year shall constitute such town's final list of
198 prospective jurors for service starting the next succeeding September.
199 The final list for each town shall contain the name and street address of
200 each prospective juror. In the event that a new master file is
201 unavailable or defective, the Chief Court Administrator may authorize
202 the Jury Administrator to continue to summon jurors from the list
203 compiled pursuant to subsection (c) of this section during the previous
204 year.

205 (e) If the Jury Administrator determines at any time that there is a
206 need to supplement the number of names on the final list of jurors for
207 each town within a judicial district, the Jury Administrator, so far as he
208 or she is able, shall select in proportion to the population of each town,
209 by random, from the names not selected pursuant to subsection (d) of
210 this section such number of prospective jurors as the Jury
211 Administrator determines is necessary.

212 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 51-232 of the general statutes is
213 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

214 (b) Such summons or notice shall also state the fact that a juror has a
215 right to one postponement of his term of juror service for not more
216 than [one year] ten months and may contain any other information
217 and instructions deemed appropriate by the Jury Administrator. If the
218 date to which the juror has postponed jury service is improper,
219 unavailable or inconvenient for the court, the Jury Administrator shall
220 assign a date of service which, if possible, is reasonably close to the
221 postponement date selected by the juror. Such notice or summons shall
222 be made available to any party or his attorney in an action to be tried
223 to a jury. The Jury Administrator may grant additional postponements
224 within or beyond said ten months but not beyond one year from the
225 original summons date.

226 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect September 1, 2000, except that
227 section 4 shall take effect September 1, 2002.

Statement of Purpose:

To require that the Commissioner of Public Health supply annually to the Jury Administrator a list of deceased persons, so that they can be eliminated from those persons who are summoned for jury duty, and that the list supplied by the Commissioner of Revenue Service include dates of birth of the persons on it, so that minors will not be called for jury service; to authorize the Jury Administrator to maintain a cumulative file of persons who are disqualified from jury service; to establish that the Jury Administrator may use the previous jury year's master list to summon jurors when so authorized by the Chief Court Administrator; and to reduce the postponement period from one year to ten months and allow the Jury Administrator to grant a second postponement for hardship reasons.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]