



***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 Section 51-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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] the capacity of such person to serve as a  
10 juror, except that no person shall be disqualified on the basis of  
11 deafness or hearing impairment; (2) has been convicted of a felony  
12 within the past seven years or is a defendant in a pending felony case  
13 or is in the custody of the Commissioner of Correction; (3) is not able  
14 to speak and understand the English language; (4) is the Governor,  
15 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or  
16 Attorney General; (5) is a judge of the Probate Court, Superior Court,  
17 Appellate Court or Supreme Court, is a family support magistrate or is  
18 a federal court judge; (6) is a member of the General Assembly,  
19 provided such disqualification shall apply only while the General  
20 Assembly is in session; (7) is a full-time college student; (8) is seventy  
21 years of age or older and chooses not to perform juror service; or [(8)]

22 (9) is incapable, by reason of a physical or mental disability, of  
23 rendering satisfactory juror service. Any person claiming a  
24 disqualification under subdivision [(8)] (9) of this subsection must  
25 submit to the Jury Administrator a letter from a licensed physician  
26 stating the physician's opinion that such disability prevents the person  
27 from rendering satisfactory juror service. In reaching such opinion, the  
28 physician shall apply the following guideline: A person shall be  
29 capable of rendering satisfactory juror service if such person is able to  
30 perform a sedentary job requiring close attention for six hours per day,  
31 with short work breaks in the morning and afternoon sessions, for at  
32 least three consecutive business days.

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

37 (c) The Jury Administrator shall have the authority to establish and  
38 maintain a list of persons to be excluded from the summoning process,  
39 which shall consist of (1) persons who are disqualified from serving on  
40 jury duty on a permanent basis due to a disability for which a licensed  
41 physician has submitted a letter stating the physician's opinion that  
42 such disability permanently prevents the person from rendering  
43 satisfactory jury service, (2) persons seventy years of age or older who  
44 have requested not to be summoned, and (3) elected officials  
45 enumerated in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section and  
46 judges enumerated in subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section  
47 during their term of office. Persons requesting to be excluded pursuant  
48 to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection must provide the Jury  
49 Administrator with their name, address, date of birth and federal  
50 Social Security number for use in matching. The request to be excluded  
51 may be rescinded at any time with written notice to the Jury  
52 Administrator.

53 Sec. 2. Section 51-219a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
54 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

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

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

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

72 (d) The Jury Administrator shall have the authority to receive a list  
73 of deceased persons from the Department of Public Health and to  
74 delete the names of such persons from the lists compiled pursuant to  
75 section 51-222a, as amended by this act. The Jury Administrator may  
76 exclude the names of additional deceased persons if supplied with a  
77 death certificate or other proof satisfactory to the Jury Administrator.

78 Sec. 3. Section 51-222a of the general statutes, as amended by section  
79 38 of public act 99-268, is repealed and the following is substituted in  
80 lieu thereof:

81 (a) Annually, upon the request of the Jury Administrator, the  
82 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall supply the Jury Administrator  
83 with the latest updated file of licensed motor vehicle operators for the  
84 state. Upon the request of the Jury Administrator, the Commissioner of  
85 Revenue Services shall supply the Jury Administrator with the most  
86 recent updated list of residents of this state who have a permanent

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

113 (b) The Jury Administrator shall compile a list of names of electors,  
114 residents of this state appearing on the most recent updated list of  
115 operators of motor vehicles licensed pursuant to chapter 246, residents  
116 who filed a return on personal income under chapter 229 in the last tax  
117 year and recipients of unemployment compensation under chapter  
118 567.

119 (c) Annually the Jury Administrator shall combine the names from  
120 the lists compiled under subsection (b) of this section. The Jury

121 Administrator shall delete, where possible, duplicate names in order to  
122 insure that names occurring on any list are given only a single chance  
123 to be selected and shall delete, where possible, the names of persons  
124 who may be excluded from the list compiled pursuant to subsection (c)  
125 of section 51-217, as amended by this act, and the names appearing on  
126 the list of deceased persons supplied by the Commissioner of Public  
127 Health.

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

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

147 Sec. 4. Section 51-222a of the general statutes, as amended by section  
148 38 of public act 99-268 and section 3 of this act, is repealed and the  
149 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

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

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

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

187 567.

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

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

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

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

218 (b) Such summons or notice shall also state the fact that a juror has a

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

231 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 54-82h of the general statutes is  
232 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

233 (c) Alternate jurors shall attend at all times upon trial of the cause.  
234 They shall be seated when the case is on trial with or near the jurors  
235 constituting the regular panel, with equal opportunity to see and hear  
236 all matters adduced in the trial of the case. If, at any time, any juror  
237 shall, for any reason, become unable to further perform [his] the duty  
238 of a juror, the court may excuse [him] such juror and, if any juror is so  
239 excused or dies, the court may order that an alternate juror who is  
240 designated by lot to be drawn by the clerk shall become a part of the  
241 regular panel and the trial or deliberation shall then proceed with  
242 appropriate instructions from the court as though such juror had been  
243 a member of the regular panel from the time when [it was begun] the  
244 trial or deliberation began. If the alternate juror becomes a member of  
245 the regular panel after deliberations began, the jury shall be instructed  
246 by the court that deliberations by the jury shall begin anew. A juror  
247 who has been selected to serve as an alternate shall not be segregated  
248 from the regular panel except when the case is given to the regular  
249 panel for deliberation at which time [he shall] such alternate juror may  
250 be dismissed from further service on said case or may remain in  
251 service under the direction of the court.

252 Sec. 7. Section 51-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
253 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

254 (a) Each full-time employed juror shall be paid regular wages by  
255 [his] the employer of such juror for the first five days, or part thereof,  
256 of [his] juror service of such juror. A person shall not be considered a  
257 full-time employed juror on any day of juror service in which such  
258 person (1) would not have accrued regular wages to be paid by the  
259 employer if such person were not serving as a juror on that day, or (2)  
260 would not have worked more than one-half of a shift which extends  
261 into another day if such person were not serving as a juror on that day.  
262 Each juror not considered a full-time employed juror on a particular  
263 day of juror service pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) [above shall be  
264 reimbursed by the state for necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred  
265 during that day of juror service, provided such day of service is within  
266 the first five days, or part thereof, of juror service. Each] of this  
267 subsection and each part-time employed juror, self-employed juror  
268 and unemployed juror shall be [reimbursed by the state for necessary  
269 out-of-pocket expenses incurred during the first five days, or part  
270 thereof, of juror service. Necessary out-of-pocket expenses shall  
271 include, but not be limited to, twenty cents for each mile of travel from  
272 his place of residence to the place of holding the court and return, and  
273 shall exclude food. The mileage shall be determined by the shortest  
274 direct route either by highway or by any regular line of conveyance  
275 between the points. A reimbursement award under this subdivision  
276 for each day of service shall not be less than twenty dollars nor more  
277 than fifty dollars] paid by the state at a rate of fifty dollars per day of  
278 service. A juror receiving payment under this subsection shall not be  
279 entitled to any additional reimbursement. For purposes of this  
280 subdivision, a "full-time employed juror" means an employee holding  
281 a position normally requiring thirty hours or more of service in each  
282 week, which position is neither temporary nor casual, and includes an  
283 employee holding a position through a temporary help service, as  
284 defined in section 31-129, which position normally requires thirty  
285 hours or more of service in each week, who has been working in that

286 position for a period exceeding ninety days, and a "part-time  
287 employed juror" means an employee holding a position normally  
288 requiring less than thirty hours of service in each week or an employee  
289 working on a temporary or casual basis. In the event that a juror may  
290 be considered to be both a full-time employed juror and a part-time  
291 employed juror for any day of the first five days, or part thereof, of  
292 juror service, such juror shall, for purposes of this section, be  
293 considered to be a full-time employed juror only.

294 [(b) The Jury Administrator shall establish guidelines for  
295 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to this section.]

296 [(c)] (b) Each juror who serves more than five days shall be paid by  
297 the state for the sixth day and each day thereafter at a rate of fifty  
298 dollars per day of service. A juror receiving payment under this  
299 subsection shall not be entitled to any additional reimbursement.

300 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect September 1, 2000, except that  
301 section 6 shall take effect October 1, 2000, and section 4 shall take effect  
302 September 1, 2002.

**JUD Committee Vote:** Yea 39 Nay 0 JFS