



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**Amendment**

LCO No. 7027

Offered by:

REP. O'NEILL, 69<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. HAMZY, 78<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5850

File No. 336

Cal. No. 254

**"AN ACT CONCERNING PEREMPTORY CHALLENGES IN A CIVIL ACTION."**

1 Strike out everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 51-241 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

5 On the trial of any civil action to a jury, each party may challenge  
6 peremptorily [three jurors] one juror. Where the court determines a  
7 unity of interest exists, several plaintiffs or several defendants may be  
8 considered as a single party for the purpose of making challenges, or  
9 the court may allow additional peremptory challenges and permit  
10 them to be exercised separately or jointly. For the purposes of this  
11 section, a "unity of interest" means that the interests of the several  
12 plaintiffs or of the several defendants are substantially similar.

13 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 51-243 of the general statutes is

14 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

15 (a) In any civil action to be tried to the jury in the Superior Court, if  
16 it appears to the court that the trial is likely to be protracted, the court  
17 may, in its discretion, direct that, after a jury has been selected, two or  
18 more additional jurors shall be added to the jury panel, to be known as  
19 "alternate jurors". Alternate jurors shall have the same qualifications  
20 and be selected and subject to examination and challenge in the same  
21 manner and to the same extent as the jurors constituting the regular  
22 panel. In any case when the court directs the selection of alternate  
23 jurors, each party may peremptorily challenge [~~four jurors~~] one juror.  
24 Where the court determines a unity of interest exists, several plaintiffs  
25 or several defendants may be considered as a single party for the  
26 purpose of making challenges, or the court may allow additional  
27 peremptory challenges and permit them to be exercised separately or  
28 jointly. For the purposes of this subsection, a "unity of interest" means  
29 that the interests of the several plaintiffs or of the several defendants  
30 are substantially similar."