



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5266

LCO No. 924

00924_____VA_

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT CONCERNING JURY DUTY QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE DUTY AND THEIR SPOUSES.

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 Section 51-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

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 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 seventy years of age or older and chooses
21 not to perform juror service; [or] (8) is incapable, by reason of a
22 physical or mental disability, of rendering satisfactory juror service; (9)
23 is a member of the armed forces on active duty; or (10) is the spouse of
24 a member of the armed forces on active duty and the parent or legal
25 guardian of a child under sixteen years of age. Any person claiming a
26 disqualification under subdivision (8) of this subsection must submit
27 to the Jury Administrator a letter from a licensed physician stating the
28 physician's opinion that such disability prevents the person from
29 rendering satisfactory juror service. In reaching such opinion, the
30 physician shall apply the following guideline: A person shall be
31 capable of rendering satisfactory juror service if such person is able to
32 perform a sedentary job requiring close attention for six hours per day,
33 with short work breaks in the morning and afternoon sessions, for at
34 least three consecutive business days.

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

39 (c) The Jury Administrator shall have the authority to establish and
40 maintain a list of persons to be excluded from the summoning process,
41 which shall consist of (1) persons who are disqualified from serving on
42 jury duty on a permanent basis due to a disability for which a licensed
43 physician has submitted a letter stating the physician's opinion that
44 such disability permanently prevents the person from rendering
45 satisfactory jury service, (2) persons seventy years of age or older who
46 have requested not to be summoned, (3) elected officials enumerated
47 in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section and judges
48 enumerated in subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section during
49 their term of office, and (4) persons excused from jury service pursuant

50 to section 51-217a who have not requested to be summoned for jury
51 service pursuant to said section. Persons requesting to be excluded
52 pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection must provide
53 the Jury Administrator with their names, addresses, dates of birth and
54 federal Social Security numbers for use in matching. The request to be
55 excluded may be rescinded at any time with written notice to the Jury
56 Administrator.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	51-217

Statement of Purpose:

To exempt from jury duty members of the armed forces on active duty and their spouses who are the parents or legal guardians of children under sixteen years of age.

[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.]