



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 960

LCO No. 3357

03357_____JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

**AN ACT EXEMPTING IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF MURDER
AND MANSLAUGHTER VICTIMS FROM THE JURY SUMMONING
PROCESS IN CRIMINAL ACTIONS.**

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 Section 51-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2011*):

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

33 (b) The Jury Administrator may determine, in such manner and at
34 such times as 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, (3) elected officials enumerated
45 in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section and judges
46 enumerated in subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section during
47 their term of office, and (4) persons excused from jury service pursuant
48 to section 51-217a who have not requested to be summoned for jury

49 service pursuant to said section. Persons requesting to be excluded
50 pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection must provide
51 the Jury Administrator with their names, addresses, dates of birth and
52 federal Social Security numbers for use in matching. The request to be
53 excluded may be rescinded at any time with written notice to the Jury
54 Administrator.

55 (d) The Jury Administrator shall establish and maintain a list of
56 persons to be excluded from the summoning process in criminal
57 actions which shall consist of any person who requests to be excluded
58 from such summoning process because an immediate family member
59 of the person was the victim of murder or manslaughter. The request
60 to be excluded may be rescinded at any time with written notice to the
61 Jury Administrator. For the purposes of this subsection, "immediate
62 family member" means a spouse, child, sibling or parent.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2011	51-217

Statement of Purpose:

To exempt immediate family members of murder and manslaughter victims from the jury summoning process in criminal actions.

[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.]