



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 466

February Session, 2012

Senate Bill No. 194

Senate, April 17, 2012

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. COLEMAN of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSTPONEMENT OF JURY DUTY FOR BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 51-232 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

3 (a) The Jury Administrator shall send to each juror drawn, by first
4 class mail, a notice stating the place where and the time when he is to
5 appear and such notice shall constitute a sufficient summons unless a
6 judge of said court directs that jurors be summoned in some other
7 manner.

8 (b) Such summons or notice shall also state the fact that a juror has a
9 right to one postponement of the juror's term of juror service for not
10 more than ten months, [and] except a juror breastfeeding her child or
11 expressing breast milk for her child has a right to one postponement
12 for not more than twelve months. Such summons or notice may
13 contain any other information and instructions deemed appropriate by

14 the Jury Administrator. If the date to which the juror has postponed
15 jury service is improper, unavailable or inconvenient for the court, the
16 Jury Administrator shall assign a date of service which, if possible, is
17 reasonably close to the postponement date selected by the juror. Such
18 notice or summons shall be made available to any party or the attorney
19 for such party in an action to be tried to a jury. The Jury Administrator
20 may grant additional postponements within or beyond said ten
21 months or twelve months, as applicable, but not beyond one year from
22 the original summons date.

23 (c) The Jury Administrator shall send to a prospective juror a juror
24 confirmation form and a confidential juror questionnaire. Such
25 questionnaire shall include questions eliciting the juror's name, age,
26 race and ethnicity, occupation, education and information usually
27 raised in voir dire examination. The questionnaire shall inform the
28 prospective juror that information concerning race and ethnicity is
29 required solely to enforce nondiscrimination in jury selection, that the
30 furnishing of such information is not a prerequisite to being qualified
31 for jury service and that such information need not be furnished if the
32 prospective juror finds it objectionable to do so. Such juror
33 confirmation form and confidential juror questionnaire shall be signed
34 by the prospective juror under penalty of false statement. Copies of the
35 completed questionnaires shall be provided to the judge and counsel
36 for use during voir dire or in preparation therefor. Counsel shall be
37 required to return such copies to the clerk of the court upon
38 completion of the voir dire. Except for disclosure made during voir
39 dire or unless the court orders otherwise, information inserted by
40 jurors shall be held in confidence by the court, the parties, counsel and
41 their authorized agents. Such completed questionnaires shall not
42 constitute a public record.

43 (d) The number of jurors in a panel may be reduced when, in the
44 opinion of the court, such number of jurors is in excess of reasonable
45 requirements. Such reduction by the clerk shall be accomplished by lot
46 to the extent authorized by the court and the jurors released shall be
47 subject to recall for jury duty only if and when required.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill extends jury duty service postponement for certain eligible people and does not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 194*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSTPONEMENT OF JURY DUTY FOR BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows a mother breastfeeding her child or expressing breast milk to postpone her jury duty service once for up to 12 months, rather than for 10 months as is already permitted by law for every prospective juror. Currently, the Jury Administrator may extend the 10 month postponement for two additional months. The bill does not authorize the Jury Administrator to grant an extension beyond the 12 month postponement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 8 Nay 0 (03/08/2012)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 45 Nay 0 (04/02/2012)