

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1159

5 By: Representative S. Meeks
6 By: Senator M. Johnson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT PROHIBITING A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL
10 OFFICEHOLDER OR A DECLARED CANDIDATE FOR A FEDERAL,
11 STATE, OR LOCAL OFFICE FROM PARTICIPATING ON A JURY;
12 TO PERMIT CERTAIN OLDER ARKANSANS TO DECLINE JURY
13 SERVICE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 PROHIBITING A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL
17 OFFICEHOLDER OR A DECLARED CANDIDATE FOR
18 A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL OFFICE FROM
19 PARTICIPATING ON A JURY; AND TO PERMIT
20 CERTAIN OLDER ARKANSANS TO DECLINE JURY
21 SERVICE.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-31-102(b), concerning persons who may
28 not serve as a petit juror, is amended to read as follows:

29 (b) Except by the consent of all the parties, no person shall serve as
30 a petit juror in any case who:

31 (1) Is related to any party or attorney in the cause within the
32 fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity;

33 (2) Is expected to appear as a witness or has been summoned to
34 appear as a witness in the cause;

35 (3) Has formed or expressed an opinion concerning the matter in
36 controversy ~~which~~ that may influence his or her judgment;



1 (4) May have a material interest in the outcome of the case;

2 (5) Is biased or prejudiced for or against any party to the
 3 cause or is prevented by any relationship or circumstance from acting
 4 impartially; ~~or~~

5 (6) Was a petit juror in a former trial of the cause or of
 6 another case involving any of the same questions of fact; or

7 (7) Holds a federal, state, or local elected or appointed
 8 office, is an announced candidate for a federal, state, or local elected
 9 office, or has held a federal, state, or local elected or appointed office
 10 within one (1) year of the service.

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12 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-31-103 is amended to read as follows:
 13 16-31-103. Exemptions from service.

14 (a) Any person may be excused from serving as a grand or petit juror
 15 or a jury commissioner for such period as the court deems necessary or may
 16 have his or her service deferred to another specified term of court when the
 17 state of his or her health or that of his family reasonably requires his or
 18 her absence, or when, for any reason, his own interests or those of the
 19 public will, in the opinion of the court, be materially injured by his
 20 attendance.

21 (b) A person who is eighty (80) years of age or older may voluntarily
 22 exempt himself or herself from or decline to participate in jury service at
 23 any time.

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