

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

As Engrossed: H1/27/21

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 EXCUSING MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM
10 PARTICIPATING ON A JURY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES;
11 TO PERMIT CERTAIN OLDER ARKANSANS TO DECLINE JURY
12 SERVICE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 EXCUSING MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
16 FROM PARTICIPATING ON A JURY UNDER
17 CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND TO PERMIT
18 CERTAIN OLDER ARKANSANS TO DECLINE JURY
19 SERVICE.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

26 It is the intent of the General Assembly to address the possible
27 separation-of-powers issue that may arise if a member of the General Assembly
28 is summoned for jury service during a regular session, an extraordinary
29 session, or a fiscal session, and to relieve the member of the General
30 Assembly from being forced to choose between compliance with a court order
31 and fulfillment of an obligation to the constituents of his or her district.
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33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-31-103 is amended to read as follows:
34 16-31-103. Exemptions from service.

35 (a) As used in this section, "adjournment sine die" means the
36 adjournment of the General Assembly without the establishment of a day



1 certain for reconvening.

2 (b) Any A person may be excused from serving as a grand or petit juror
3 or a jury commissioner for such period as the court deems necessary or may
4 have his or her service deferred to another specified term of court when the
5 state of his or her health or that of his or her family reasonably requires
6 his or her absence, or when, for any reason, his or her own interests or
7 those of the public will, in the opinion of the court, be materially injured
8 by his or her attendance.

9 (c) If a member of the General Assembly is summoned for service on a
10 petit or grand jury in circuit court within thirty (30) days preceding the
11 convening of the General Assembly or at any time during a regular,
12 extraordinary, or fiscal session, he or she is entitled to a deferment of
13 that service until thirty (30) days after adjournment sine die of the General
14 Assembly.

15 (d) A person who is eighty (80) years of age or older may voluntarily
16 exempt himself or herself from or decline to participate in jury service at
17 any time.

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19 /s/S. Meeks
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