

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: H1/27/21
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1159

By: Representative S. Meeks

By: Senator M. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

EXCUSING MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM PARTICIPATING ON A JURY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND TO PERMIT CERTAIN OLDER ARKANSANS TO DECLINE JURY SERVICE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

It is the intent of the General Assembly to address the possible separation-of-powers issue that may arise if a member of the General Assembly is summoned for jury service during a regular session, an extraordinary session, or a fiscal session, and to relieve the member of the General Assembly from being forced to choose between compliance with a court order and fulfillment of an obligation to the constituents of his or her district.

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

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



certain for reconvening.

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

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

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

/s/S. Meeks