

1-1 By: Leach (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 2015
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 13, 2023;
 1-3 April 18, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on State
 1-4 Affairs; May 5, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 5, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the exemption from jury service for persons over a
 1-22 certain age.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 62.106(a), Government Code, is amended
 1-25 to read as follows:

1-26 (a) A person qualified to serve as a petit juror may
 1-27 establish an exemption from jury service if the person:

1-28 (1) is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age;

1-29 (2) has legal custody of a child younger than 12 years
 1-30 of age and the person's service on the jury requires leaving the
 1-31 child without adequate supervision;

1-32 (3) is a student of a public or private secondary
 1-33 school;

1-34 (4) is a person enrolled and in actual attendance at an
 1-35 institution of higher education;

1-36 (5) is an officer or an employee of the senate, the
 1-37 house of representatives, or any department, commission, board,
 1-38 office, or other agency in the legislative branch of state
 1-39 government;

1-40 (6) is summoned for service in a county with a
 1-41 population of at least 200,000, unless that county uses a jury plan
 1-42 under Section 62.011 and the period authorized under Section
 1-43 62.011(b)(5) exceeds two years, and the person has served as a petit
 1-44 juror in the county during the 24-month period preceding the date
 1-45 the person is to appear for jury service;

1-46 (7) is the primary caretaker of a person who is unable
 1-47 to care for himself or herself;

1-48 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b), is summoned
 1-49 for service in a county with a population of at least 250,000 and
 1-50 the person has served as a petit juror in the county during the
 1-51 three-year period preceding the date the person is to appear for
 1-52 jury service; or

1-53 (9) is a member of the United States military forces
 1-54 serving on active duty and deployed to a location away from the
 1-55 person's home station and out of the person's county of residence.

1-56 SECTION 2. Section 62.107(c), Government Code, is amended
 1-57 to read as follows:

1-58 (c) A person who files a statement with a clerk of the court,
 1-59 as provided by Subsection (a), claiming an exemption because the
 1-60 person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age, may also claim the permanent
 1-61 exemption on that ground authorized by Section 62.108 by including

2-1 in the statement filed with the clerk a declaration that the person
2-2 desires the permanent exemption. Promptly after a statement
2-3 claiming a permanent exemption on the basis of age is filed, the
2-4 clerk of the court with whom it is filed shall have a copy delivered
2-5 to the voter registrar of the county.

2-6 SECTION 3. Sections 62.108(a), (b), (c), and (e),
2-7 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

2-8 (a) A person who is entitled to exemption from jury service
2-9 because the person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age may establish a
2-10 permanent exemption on that ground as provided by this section or
2-11 Section 62.107.

2-12 (b) A person may claim a permanent exemption:

2-13 (1) by filing with the voter registrar of the county,
2-14 by mail or personal delivery, a signed statement affirming that the
2-15 person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age and desires a permanent
2-16 exemption on that ground; or

2-17 (2) in the manner provided by Section 62.107(c).

2-18 (c) The voter registrar of the county shall maintain a
2-19 current register indicating the name of each person who has claimed
2-20 and is entitled to a permanent exemption from jury service because
2-21 the person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age.

2-22 (e) A person who has claimed a permanent exemption from jury
2-23 service because the person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age may rescind
2-24 the exemption at any time by filing a signed request for the
2-25 rescission with the voter registrar of the county. Rescission of a
2-26 permanent exemption does not affect the right of a person who is
2-27 over 75 [~~70~~] years of age to claim permanent exemption at a later
2-28 time.

2-29 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
2-30 to an exemption from jury service for a person who is summoned to
2-31 appear for service on or after the effective date of this Act. An
2-32 exemption from jury service for a person who is summoned to appear
2-33 for service before the effective date of this Act is covered by the
2-34 law in effect when the person was summoned, and that law is
2-35 continued in effect for that purpose.

2-36 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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