

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 211 (Senator Hooper, *et al.*)
Judicial Proceedings

Jury Duty - Excuse from Service - Breastfeeding Mother

This bill requires a judge to excuse from jury service a mother who is breastfeeding a child under the age of two years.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and would not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None – see above.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Any person summoned for jury service may be excused by the jury judge if the person shows that undue hardship, extreme inconvenience, or public necessity require the excuse, but only for the period of time the jury judge deems necessary. At the conclusion of this period, the person is once again eligible to be summoned for jury service.

There are also blanket exemptions from jury service for members of the organized militia who are certified by the military department as a member, and persons 70 years and older who make a written request for an exemption.

Background: California, Idaho, Iowa, and Oregon specifically exempt breastfeeding mothers from jury service. Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, and South Carolina exempt parents who are home caring for children below a specified age.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

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