

SENATE BILL 740

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SB 575/03 - JPR

2004 Regular Session  
4r2432  
CF 4r2827

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By: **Senator Hughes**  
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2004  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Jury Duty - Exemption - Religious Beliefs**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting from jury duty a person whose religious beliefs  
4 prohibit the person from serving on a jury.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
7 Section 8-209  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
11 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

12 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

13 8-209.

14 (a) The only persons exempt from jury service are:

15 (1) A member of the organized militia who is certified by the military  
16 department as a member; [and]

17 (2) A PERSON WHOSE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS PROHIBIT THE PERSON FROM  
18 SERVING ON A JURY; AND

19 [(2)] (3) A person who is 70 years old or older who has made a written  
20 request to the jury commissioner or clerk for an exemption.

21 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, in any 3 year period, a  
22 person may not be required to:

23 (1) Serve or attend court for prospective service as a petit juror for more  
24 than one term of court, except when necessary to complete service in a particular  
25 case; or

1           (2)     Serve on more than one grand jury; or

2           (3)     Serve as both a grand and petit juror.

3       (c)     As to any juror who has actually served on a petit jury for less than 5 days,  
4 the 3 year limitation on frequency of jury service provided by subsection (b) of this  
5 section may be reduced to not less than 1 year by appropriate provision in a juror  
6 selection plan adopted under § 8-201 of this article.

7       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 October 1, 2004.