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By: **Delegate Marriott**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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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 who has been denied the  
4 constitutional protection to practice that person's religious beliefs in a place of  
5 employment.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
8 Section 8-209  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

14 8-209.

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

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

18 (2) A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN DENIED THE CONSTITUTIONAL  
19 PROTECTION TO PRACTICE THAT PERSON'S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN A PLACE OF  
20 EMPLOYMENT; AND

21 [(2)] (3) A person who is 70 years old or older who has made a written  
22 request to the jury commissioner or clerk for an exemption.

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

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

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

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

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

10       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2006.