

CS/HB 79

2010

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to excuse from jury service; amending s.  
3           40.013, F.S.; expanding parental eligibility to be excused  
4           from jury service; including practicing psychologists in  
5           the list of persons a judge is authorized to excuse from  
6           jury service; providing an effective date.

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8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10           Section 1. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 40.013,  
11   Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

12           40.013 Persons disqualified or excused from jury  
13   service.--

14           (4) Any expectant mother, any mother who is breastfeeding  
15   a child under 2 years of age, and any parent who is not employed  
16   full time and who has custody of a child under 6 years of age,  
17   upon request, shall be excused from jury service.

18           (5) A presiding judge may, in his or her discretion,  
19   excuse a practicing attorney, a practicing physician, a  
20   practicing psychologist, or a person who is physically infirm  
21   from jury service, except that no person shall be excused from  
22   service on a civil trial jury solely on the basis that the  
23   person is deaf or hearing impaired, if that person wishes to  
24   serve, unless the presiding judge makes a finding that  
25   consideration of the evidence to be presented requires auditory  
26   discrimination or that the timely progression of the trial will  
27   be considerably affected thereby. However, nothing in this

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28 | subsection shall affect a litigant's right to exercise a  
29 | peremptory challenge.

30 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.