

By the Committee on Judiciary; and Senator Sobel

590-01396-10

201086c1

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to excuse from jury service; amending  
3 s. 40.013, F.S.; expanding parental eligibility to be  
4 excused from jury service; authorizing a presiding  
5 judge to excuse a practicing psychologist from jury  
6 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 service.—

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

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

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