

By Senator Sobel

31-00523-12

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to persons excused from jury service;
3 amending s. 40.013, F.S.; expanding parental
4 eligibility to be excused from jury service;
5 authorizing a presiding judge to excuse a practicing
6 psychologist from jury service; providing an effective
7 date.

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

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

13 40.013 Persons disqualified or excused from jury service.—

14 (4) Any expectant mother, any mother who is breastfeeding a
15 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,~~ excuse
19 a practicing attorney, a practicing physician, a practicing
20 psychologist, or a person who is physically infirm from jury
21 service, except that a ~~no~~ person may not ~~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
28 subsection does not ~~shall~~ affect a litigant's right to exercise
29 a peremptory challenge.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.