

SENATE BILL 597

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 22,
relative to jurors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 22-1-103, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(e)

(1) Any person, when summoned to jury duty, must be excused upon a showing that the person has a religious objection to jury service.

(2) A judge of the court for which the prospective juror was called to jury service shall excuse persons due to religious objection unless a judge of that court delegates the authority to the jury coordinator.

(3) A person requesting an excuse based on a religious objection must submit a written statement, signed under penalty of perjury, stating that the person's religious beliefs prohibit the person from serving on a jury.

(4) Upon receiving a written statement prior to the date on which the person is scheduled to appear for jury duty, the judge or jury coordinator shall excuse the person without requiring the person to appear.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 22-2-306(a)(6), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(6) Process by which the juror may attempt to be excused due to a hardship or religious objection, pursuant to § 22-1-103, including the juror's obligation to submit documentation in support of the juror's request; and

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.