

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 830

7 H.P. 656

House of Representatives, February 22, 1983

8 Referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and
9 ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Crowley of Stockton Springs.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Make Jury Duty Optional for
18 Persons over 65 Years of Age.
19

20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
21 follows:

22 14 MRSA §1213, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1981, c.
23 705, Pt. G, §6, is amended to read:

24 2. Basis for excuse; record. A qualified pros-
25 pective juror may be excused from jury service only
26 upon a showing of undue hardship, extreme incon-
27 venience, public necessity, ~~or~~ that he is incapable
28 of rendering satisfactory jury service by reason of
29 physical or mental disability or that he is over 65
30 years of age. A person claiming a disability excuse
31 may be required to submit a physician's certificate
32 or accredited Christian Science practitioner's cer-
33 tificate and the certifying physician or Christian
34 Science practitioner is subject to inquiry by the

1 court at its ~~deseretion~~ discretion. The decision
2 concerning a request for excuse shall be made by the
3 presiding justice or by a clerk of court acting under
4 the supervision of the presiding justice. Depending
5 upon the circumstances, except in the case of a pros-
6 pective juror over 65 years of age, such a juror may
7 be excused from jury service finally, be required to
8 serve at a later specific time or be required to
9 serve for a period of time less than the usual 15
10 court days. The juror qualification form shall give a
11 person over 65 years of age the opportunity to indi-
12 cate that he seeks an excuse from jury service
13 finally. The clerk shall enter ~~this~~ the determination
14 and the reason therefor in the appropriate record
15 kept for that purpose.

16 STATEMENT OF FACT

17 The purpose of this bill is to make jury service
18 optional for persons over 65 years of age. The bill
19 permits a prospective juror over 65 to seek an excuse
20 from jury service, though those over 65 who wish to
21 serve need not be excused. The bill requires the
22 juror qualification form to give the prospective
23 juror over 65 the option of indicating that he does
24 not want to serve on a jury.

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