

SENATE BILL 1296

By Kelsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 21, Part 4; Title 9, Chapter 4; Title 22 and Title 39, Chapter 16, Part 5, relative to jury service.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 22, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

22-1-107. No person may be required to render service as a petit juror for more than one (1) day in any one (1) calendar year unless the person is selected to serve in a trial or is under consideration to serve in a trial and such consideration covers a period of two (2) or more days.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 22, Chapter 2, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

22-2-317. Upon notification by an employer with five (5) or fewer full-time employees, a court shall postpone and reschedule the service of a summoned juror who is employed by the employer if another employee of that employer has previously been summoned to appear during that same period. Such postponement shall not affect a person's right to one (1) postponement pursuant to § 22-2-315(a).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 22-2-309, is amended by deleting the language "pursuant to § 22-2-315" and by substituting instead the language "pursuant to § 22-2-315 or § 22-2-317".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 22-2-306(a), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Process by which the juror's employer may request a postponement of jury service pursuant to § 22-2-317;

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 22-2-306(a)(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(3)

(A) A list of available dates, each with a corresponding time and place, from which a person may select a fixed date for the person's appearance for jury service;

(B) The method by which the juror is required to contact the jury coordinator to select a fixed date or otherwise respond to the court regarding the juror's service;

(C) The deadline for contacting the jury coordinator for selecting a fixed date and a statement that date selection is on a first-come, first-served basis; and

(D) A fixed date, time, and place the juror is required to appear in response to the summons if the juror does not select a fixed date with the concurrence of the jury coordinator;

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 22-2-307(a), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) The sheriff shall summon jurors by first class mail sent to the regular address of each member of the jury pool, giving notice of such person's selection for jury. The summons shall be mailed to the regular address at least thirty (30) days prior to the first available date for the person's appearance for jury service.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.