

SENATE BILL 293

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SB 538/14 – JPR

5lr0335
CF 5lr1242

By: **Senators Ramirez, Benson, Cassilly, Feldman, Ferguson, Hough, Kelley, Madaleno, and Montgomery**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Jury Service – Excusal**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a certain parent may be excused from jury service under
4 certain circumstances; and generally relating to jury service and excusals from jury
5 service.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
8 Section 8–402
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

14 8–402.

15 (a) Subject to the requirements of this section, a jury judge or, if a county's jury
16 plan allows, its jury commissioner may disqualify, excuse, or exempt an individual who is
17 summoned for jury service or reschedule jury service.

18 (b) An individual may be disqualified only on the basis of information provided
19 on a juror questionnaire or during an interview or other competent evidence.

20 (c) (1) To be excused, an individual shall show, on a juror questionnaire,
21 during an interview, or by other competent evidence, that [extreme]:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(I) EXTREME** inconvenience, public necessity, or undue hardship
2 requires excusal; **OR**

3 **(II) THE INDIVIDUAL IS A BREAST-FEEDING MOTHER OF AN**
4 **INFANT UNDER THE AGE OF 2 YEARS.**

5 (2) An individual may be excused:

6 (i) Only for the period that the jury judge or jury commissioner
7 considers necessary; and

8 (ii) Not more than twice unless the jury judge finds that the
9 individual has shown an extraordinary circumstance that requires an additional excuse.

10 (3) When the period set under this subsection expires, a jury commissioner
11 again shall summon the individual for jury service.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2015.