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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 883 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS-HILL, MARTIN, COSTA, YUDICHAK, STEFANO,  
J. WARD AND BREWSTER, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juries and jurors,  
3 further providing for exemptions from jury duty.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 4503(a) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph and the  
8 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

9 § 4503. Exemptions from jury duty.

10 (a) General rule.--No person shall be exempt or excused from  
11 jury duty except the following:

12 \* \* \*

13 (9) Caregivers who:

14 (i) request to be excused;

15 (ii) are not employed outside their home; and

16 (iii) reside in a household with primary

17 responsibility for the active care of a child under seven

18 years of age or of an individual with a permanent

1 physical or intellectual disability, if the individual  
2 cannot care for the individual during the hours when the  
3 court is normally in session, and the caregivers:

4 (A) do not have alternative care that is  
5 available to them; or

6 (B) are unable to afford alternative care.

7 (a.1) Caregivers.--

8 (1) A court may require a notarized affidavit from the  
9 caregivers under subsection (a) (9) attesting to the  
10 satisfaction of the conditions specified under subsection (a)  
11 (9) (ii) and (iii).

12 (2) Caregivers under subsection (a) (9) may be excused  
13 permanently or for a period as the court determines is  
14 necessary. If excused for a limited period, the caregivers  
15 shall, at the end of the period, be assigned to the next jury  
16 array.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.