

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY --
JURY LISTS

Introduced By: Senators Acosta, Quezada, Britto, and Mack

Date Introduced: March 23, 2023

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 9-9-1.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 9-9 entitled "Jury Lists" is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **9-9-1.1. Qualifications of jurors.**

4 (a) A person is qualified to serve as a juror if the person is:

5 (1) A citizen of the United States; and

6 (2) A resident of Rhode Island who either:

7 (i) Resides in the county where the person is registered to vote; or

8 (ii) Is licensed to operate a motor vehicle within this state; or

9 (iii) Possesses a Rhode Island identification card issued pursuant to the provisions of §§ 3-
10 8-6 and 3-8-6.1; or

11 (iv) Is an individual filing a state income tax return; or

12 (v) Is an individual recipient of unemployment compensation.

13 (3) At least 18 years of age;

14 (4) Able to understand and participate in the court proceedings; and

15 (5) Physically and mentally capable of performing in a reasonable manner the duties of a
16 juror.

17 (b) No person shall be allowed to serve as a juror if he or she has been lawfully adjudicated
18 to be non compos mentis, or is serving a sentence of confinement at a correctional facility as a

1 [consequence of a felony conviction.](#)

2 (c) ~~No person convicted of a felony shall be allowed to serve as a juror, until completion~~
3 ~~of such felon's sentence, served or suspended, and of parole or probation regardless of a nolo~~
4 ~~contendere plea.~~

5 (d) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a)(4) and (5), a person with a disability shall not be
6 ineligible to serve as a juror solely on the basis of his or her disability, and if that person meets the
7 above requirements, with reasonable accommodations if necessary, he or she shall be deemed a
8 qualified juror.

9 (e) Nothing in this section shall prevent the court from disqualifying a prospective juror
10 because he or she lacks a faculty or has a disability which will prevent the potential juror from
11 being a competent juror in a particular case.

12 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit a party's right to preemptorially
13 challenge jurors.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY --
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- 1 This act would allow persons who are on parole, a suspended sentence or on probation to
- 2 serve on juries.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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