

ASSEMBLY, No. 977

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Atkins, Stanley, Assemblywoman Jaffer, Assemblyman Wimberly, Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblymen Mukherji, Conaway, Assemblywoman Sumter, Assemblyman Sampson, Assemblywomen Carter, Tucker, Assemblymen Spearman, McClellan and Verrelli

SYNOPSIS

Eliminates past conviction of indictable offense as disqualifier for jury service.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/20/2023)

1 AN ACT permitting persons with certain prior convictions to qualify
2 for jury service, and amending N.J.S.2B:20-1.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. N.J.S.2B:20-1 is amended to read as follows:

8 2B:20-1. Qualifications of jurors.

9 Every person summoned as a juror:

10 a. shall be 18 years of age or older;

11 b. shall be able to read and understand the English language;

12 c. shall be a citizen of the United States;

13 d. shall be a resident of the county in which the person is
14 summoned;

15 e. **[**shall not have been convicted of any indictable offense
16 under the laws of this State, another state, or the United States;**]**
17 (Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c.) (pending before the
18 Legislature as this bill)

19 f. shall not have any mental or physical disability which will
20 prevent the person from properly serving as a juror.

21 (cf: P.L.1997, c.127, s.1)

22

23 2. On the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the
24 Legislature as this bill), each juror source list compiled in
25 accordance with N.J.S.2B:20-2 that is being used to select eligible
26 persons for jury service shall be updated, to account for the change
27 in juror qualifications established by that act, no later than the first
28 day of the four month next following enactment of that act.

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30 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill would permit persons with past convictions of
36 indictable offenses to serve on juries. Under current law, such
37 convictions, whether based on violations of New Jersey law,
38 another state's law, or federal law, are automatic disqualifiers for
39 jury service. See N.J.S.2B:20-1, subsection e. The bill would
40 eliminate this disqualifier, making persons with such convictions
41 eligible for jury service.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.