

[First Reprint]

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)

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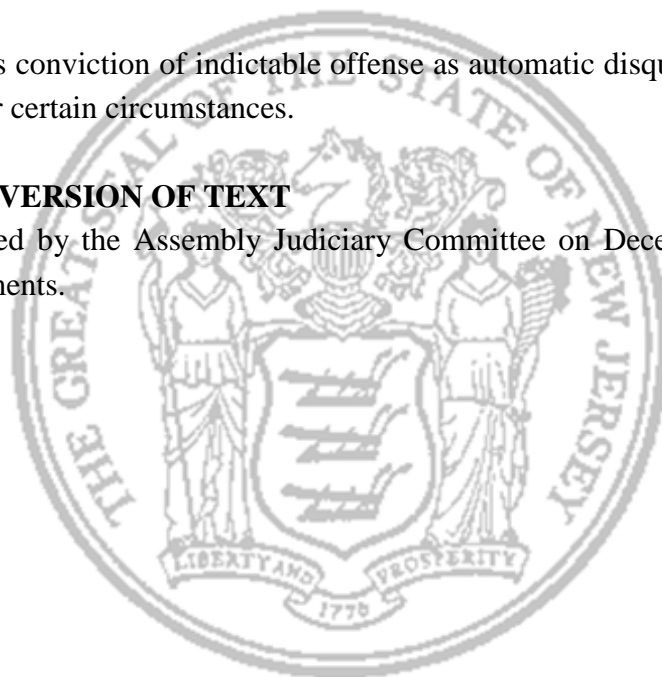
Assemblymen Atkins, Stanley, Assemblywoman Jaffer, Assemblyman Wimberly, Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblymen Mukherji, Conaway, Assemblywoman Sumter, Assemblyman Sampson, Assemblywomen Carter, Tucker, Assemblymen Spearman, McClellan and Verrelli

SYNOPSIS

Eliminates conviction of indictable offense as automatic disqualifier for jury service under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Judiciary Committee on December 4, 2023, with amendments.



(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:

6

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 ¹shall¹:

10 a. ¹shall¹ be 18 years of age or older;

11 b. ¹shall¹ be able to read and understand the English language;

12 c. ¹shall¹ be a citizen of the United States;

13 d. ¹shall¹ be a resident of the county in which the person is
14 summoned;

15 e. ¹shall not have been convicted of any indictable offense
16 under the laws of this State, another state, or the United States;

17 ¹[(Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c.) (pending before the
18 Legislature as this bill)] not have been convicted of murder
19 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:11-3 or aggravated sexual assault pursuant to
20 subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:14-2;¹

21 f. ¹shall not be serving a sentence of incarceration for any
22 indictable offense under the laws of this State, another state, or the
23 United States; and

24 g. ¹not have any mental or physical disability which will prevent
25 the person from properly serving as a juror.

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

27

28 2. On the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the
29 Legislature as this bill), each juror source list compiled in
30 accordance with N.J.S.2B:20-2 that is being used to select eligible
31 persons for jury service shall be updated, to account for the change
32 in juror qualifications established by that act, no later than the first
33 day of the ¹four¹ fourth¹ month next following enactment of that
34 act.

35

36 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AJU committee amendments adopted December 4, 2023.