

SENATE, No. 4608

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator RAJ MUKHERJI
District 32 (Hudson)
Senator BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE
District 34 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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 shall:

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;]** not
17 have been convicted of murder pursuant to N.J.S.2C:11-3 or
18 aggravated sexual assault pursuant to subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:14-
19 2;

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

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

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

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

33
34 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

35
36
37 STATEMENT

38
39 This bill would permit persons with past convictions of
40 indictable offenses to serve on juries under certain circumstances.
41 Under current law, these convictions, whether based on violations
42 of New Jersey law, another state's law, or federal law, are
43 automatic disqualifiers for jury service.

44 Under the bill, a person would still be automatically disqualified
45 for jury service if:

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.

- 1 (1) the person was ever convicted of murder or aggravated sexual
- 2 assault; or
- 3 (2) the person is serving a sentence of incarceration for an
- 4 indictable offense under the laws of this State, another state, or the
- 5 United States.