

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

LEGISLATOR STATEMENT: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 43, *approved April 22, 2025*

Senate, No. 2236

1 AN ACT concerning exemption from jury service and amending
2 N.J.S.2B:20-10.

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:20-10 is amended to read as follows:
8 2B:20-10. An excuse from jury service shall be granted only if:

- 9 a. The prospective juror is 75 years of age or older;
10 b. The prospective juror has served as a juror within the last
11 three years in the county to which the juror is being summoned;
12 c. Jury service will impose a severe hardship due to
13 circumstances which are not likely to change within the following
14 year. Severe hardship includes the following circumstances:

15 (1) The prospective juror has a medical inability to serve which
16 is verified by a licensed physician.

17 (2) The prospective juror will suffer a severe financial hardship
18 which will compromise the juror's ability to support himself,
19 herself, or dependents. In determining whether to excuse the
20 prospective juror, the Assignment Judge shall consider:

- 21 (a) the sources of the prospective juror's household income; and
22 (b) the availability and extent of income reimbursement; and
23 (c) the expected length of service.

24 (3) The prospective juror has a personal obligation to care for
25 another, including:

26 (a) a dependent who is sick, is elderly, or has an infirmity or a
27 minor child, who requires the prospective juror's personal care and
28 attention, and no alternative care is available without severe
29 financial hardship on the prospective juror or the person requiring
30 care; or

31 (b) a child who is one year of age or younger where the
32 prospective juror is the child's mother and is nursing or expressing
33 milk for the child.

34 (4) The prospective juror provides highly specialized technical
35 health care services for which replacement cannot reasonably be
36 obtained.

37 (5) The prospective juror is a health care worker directly
38 involved in the care of a person with a mental or physical disability,
39 and the prospective juror's continued presence is essential to the
40 personal treatment of that person.

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 (6) The prospective juror is a member of the full-time
2 instructional staff of a grammar school or high school, the
3 scheduled jury service is during the school term, and a replacement
4 cannot reasonably be obtained. In determining whether to excuse
5 the prospective juror or grant a deferral of service, the Assignment
6 Judge shall consider:

7 (a) the impact on the school considering the number and
8 function of teachers called for jury service during the current
9 academic year; and

10 (b) the special role of certified special education teachers in
11 providing continuity of instruction to students with disabilities;

12 d. The prospective juror is a member of a volunteer fire
13 department or fire patrol; or

14 e. The prospective juror is a volunteer member of a first aid or
15 rescue squad.

16 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.3)

17

18 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to
19 jurors impaneled on or after the effective date.

20

21

22

23

24 _____
Exempts nursing mothers from jury duty.

CHAPTER 43

AN ACT concerning exemption from jury service and amending N.J.S.2B:20-10.

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

1. N.J.S.2B:20-10 is amended to read as follows:

Grounds for excuse from jury service.

2B:20-10. An excuse from jury service shall be granted only if:

- a. The prospective juror is 75 years of age or older;
- b. The prospective juror has served as a juror within the last three years in the county to which the juror is being summoned;
- c. Jury service will impose a severe hardship due to circumstances which are not likely to change within the following year. Severe hardship includes the following circumstances:
 - (1) The prospective juror has a medical inability to serve which is verified by a licensed physician.
 - (2) The prospective juror will suffer a severe financial hardship which will compromise the juror's ability to support himself, herself, or dependents. In determining whether to excuse the prospective juror, the Assignment Judge shall consider:
 - (a) the sources of the prospective juror's household income; and
 - (b) the availability and extent of income reimbursement; and
 - (c) the expected length of service.
 - (3) The prospective juror has a personal obligation to care for another, including:
 - (a) a dependent who is sick, is elderly, or has an infirmity or a minor child, who requires the prospective juror's personal care and attention, and no alternative care is available without severe financial hardship on the prospective juror or the person requiring care; or
 - (b) a child who is one year of age or younger where the prospective juror is the child's mother and is nursing or expressing milk for the child.
 - (4) The prospective juror provides highly specialized technical health care services for which replacement cannot reasonably be obtained.
 - (5) The prospective juror is a health care worker directly involved in the care of a person with a mental or physical disability, and the prospective juror's continued presence is essential to the personal treatment of that person.
 - (6) The prospective juror is a member of the full-time instructional staff of a grammar school or high school, the scheduled jury service is during the school term, and a replacement cannot reasonably be obtained. In determining whether to excuse the prospective juror or grant a deferral of service, the Assignment Judge shall consider:
 - (a) the impact on the school considering the number and function of teachers called for jury service during the current academic year; and
 - (b) the special role of certified special education teachers in providing continuity of instruction to students with disabilities;
 - d. The prospective juror is a member of a volunteer fire department or fire patrol; or
 - e. The prospective juror is a volunteer member of a first aid or rescue squad.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to jurors impaneled on or after the effective date.

Approved April 22, 2025.

SENATE, No. 2236

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Exempts nursing mothers from jury duty.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning exemption from jury service and amending
2 N.J.S.2B:20-10.

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:20-10 is amended to read as follows:

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10 b. The prospective juror has served as a juror within the last
11 three years in the county to which the juror is being summoned;

12 c. Jury service will impose a severe hardship due to
13 circumstances which are not likely to change within the following
14 year. Severe hardship includes the following circumstances:

15 (1) The prospective juror has a medical inability to serve which
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18 which will compromise the juror's ability to support himself,
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20 prospective juror, the Assignment Judge shall consider:

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22 (b) the availability and extent of income reimbursement; and

23 (c) the expected length of service.

24 (3) The prospective juror has a personal obligation to care for
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27 minor child, who requires the prospective juror's personal care and
28 attention, and no alternative care is available without severe
29 financial hardship on the prospective juror or the person requiring
30 care; or

31 (b) a child who is one year of age or younger where the
32 prospective juror is the child's mother and is nursing or expressing
33 milk for the child.

34 (4) The prospective juror provides highly specialized technical
35 health care services for which replacement cannot reasonably be
36 obtained.

37 (5) The prospective juror is a health care worker directly
38 involved in the care of a person with a mental or physical disability,
39 and the prospective juror's continued presence is essential to the
40 personal treatment of that person.

41 (6) The prospective juror is a member of the full-time
42 instructional staff of a grammar school or high school, the
43 scheduled jury service is during the school term, and a replacement
44 cannot reasonably be obtained. In determining whether to excuse

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 the prospective juror or grant a deferral of service, the Assignment
2 Judge shall consider:

3 (a) the impact on the school considering the number and
4 function of teachers called for jury service during the current
5 academic year; and

6 (b) the special role of certified special education teachers in
7 providing continuity of instruction to students with disabilities;

8 d. The prospective juror is a member of a volunteer fire
9 department or fire patrol; or

10 e. The prospective juror is a volunteer member of a first aid or
11 rescue squad.

12 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.3)

13

14 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to
15 jurors impaneled on or after the effective date.

16

17

18

STATEMENT

19

20 This bill exempts nursing mothers from jury duty. Under current
21 law, nursing mothers are not explicitly exempted from jury duty,
22 which can present a hardship to mothers who are nursing or
23 expressing milk for their babies.

24 Currently, exemptions from jury duty are statutorily authorized
25 for persons: 75 years of age or older; who have served on a jury
26 within the previous three years; or who will suffer severe hardship
27 due to circumstances that are unlikely to change within a year (e.g.
28 medical conditions, care of another or financial hardship).
29 Members of volunteer fire departments and first aid or rescue
30 squads and, under certain circumstances, teachers are exempted.

31 Medical professionals state breastfeeding provides health
32 benefits to infants. Breastfeeding has been associated with reduced
33 risk of respiratory infections, gastrointestinal tract infections,
34 sudden infant death syndrome, allergic disease, celiac disease,
35 inflammatory bowel disease, obesity, diabetes, childhood leukemia
36 and lymphoma, and neurodevelopmental disorders. Breastfeeding
37 has also been associated with health benefits to mothers such as
38 reduced risk of rheumatoid arthritis, cardiovascular disease,
39 diabetes, breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

40 In 2011, the United States Surgeon General issued a “Call to
41 Action to Support Breastfeeding.” The State of New Jersey
42 Department of Health has recognized the benefits associated with
43 breastfeeding and has issued proposed guidelines for New Jersey
44 hospitals which are designed to encourage more mothers to
45 breastfeed in order to improve health outcomes of both mothers and
46 infants

S2236 RUIZ, STACK

4

1 It is the view of the sponsor that nursing mothers should be
2 supported in their efforts to breastfeed their babies. This bill
3 provides assistance to mothers who are nursing or expressing milk
4 by enabling them to claim an exemption from jury duty during the
5 first year of their child's life.

SENATE, No. 2236

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

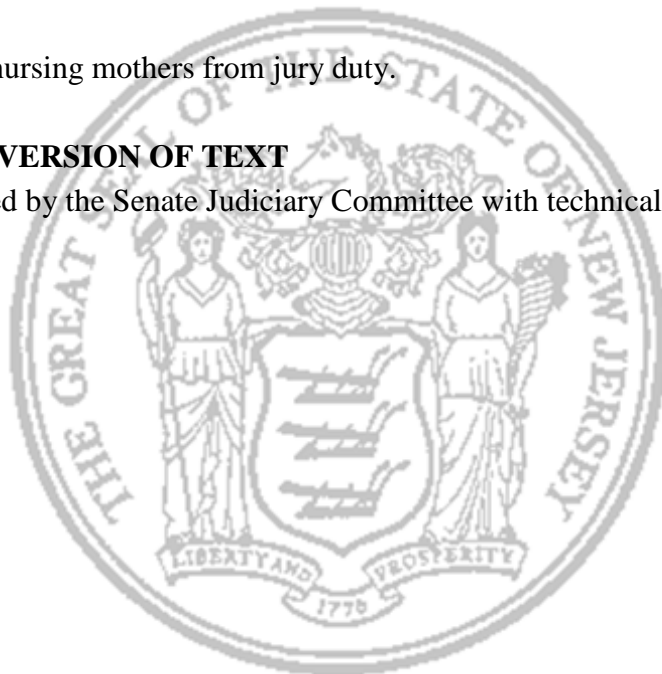
**Senators Diegnan, Pou, Assemblymen Schnall, Rodriguez, Sampson,
Assemblywomen Bagolie and Ramirez**

SYNOPSIS

Exempts nursing mothers from jury duty.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning exemption from jury service and amending
2 N.J.S.2B:20-10.

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:20-10 is amended to read as follows:

8 2B:20-10. An excuse from jury service shall be granted only if:

9 a. The prospective juror is 75 years of age or older;

10 b. The prospective juror has served as a juror within the last
11 three years in the county to which the juror is being summoned;

12 c. Jury service will impose a severe hardship due to
13 circumstances which are not likely to change within the following
14 year. Severe hardship includes the following circumstances:

15 (1) The prospective juror has a medical inability to serve which
16 is verified by a licensed physician.

17 (2) The prospective juror will suffer a severe financial hardship
18 which will compromise the juror's ability to support himself,
19 herself, or dependents. In determining whether to excuse the
20 prospective juror, the Assignment Judge shall consider:

21 (a) the sources of the prospective juror's household income; and

22 (b) the availability and extent of income reimbursement; and

23 (c) the expected length of service.

24 (3) The prospective juror has a personal obligation to care for
25 another, including:

26 (a) a dependent who is sick, is elderly, or has an infirmity or a
27 minor child, who requires the prospective juror's personal care and
28 attention, and no alternative care is available without severe
29 financial hardship on the prospective juror or the person requiring
30 care; or

31 (b) a child who is one year of age or younger where the
32 prospective juror is the child's mother and is nursing or expressing
33 milk for the child.

34 (4) The prospective juror provides highly specialized technical
35 health care services for which replacement cannot reasonably be
36 obtained.

37 (5) The prospective juror is a health care worker directly
38 involved in the care of a person with a mental or physical disability,
39 and the prospective juror's continued presence is essential to the
40 personal treatment of that person.

41 (6) The prospective juror is a member of the full-time
42 instructional staff of a grammar school or high school, the
43 scheduled jury service is during the school term, and a replacement
44 cannot reasonably be obtained. In determining whether to excuse

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.

S2236 RUIZ, STACK

3

1 the prospective juror or grant a deferral of service, the Assignment
2 Judge shall consider:

3 (a) the impact on the school considering the number and
4 function of teachers called for jury service during the current
5 academic year; and

6 (b) the special role of certified special education teachers in
7 providing continuity of instruction to students with disabilities;

8 d. The prospective juror is a member of a volunteer fire
9 department or fire patrol; or

10 e. The prospective juror is a volunteer member of a first aid or
11 rescue squad.

12 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.3)

13

14 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to
15 jurors impaneled on or after the effective date.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2236

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 20, 2024

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2236.

This bill exempts nursing mothers from jury duty when the child is one year of age or younger. Under current law, nursing mothers are not explicitly exempted from jury duty, which can present a hardship to mothers who are nursing or expressing milk for their babies.

Currently, statutory exemptions from jury duty include those for persons: 75 years of age or older; who have served on a jury within the previous three years; or who will suffer severe hardship due to circumstances that are unlikely to change within a year (e.g., medical conditions or severe financial hardship compromising the ability to support oneself or one's dependents). Also exempted are members of volunteer fire departments, first aid squads, and rescue squads, and, under certain circumstances during a school term, elementary and secondary school teachers.

This bill would support mothers who are nursing or expressing milk and their infant children by enabling them to claim an exemption from jury duty during the first year of an infant child's life.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 2236 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1992 , which was also reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2236

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 8, 2024

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2236.

This bill exempts nursing mothers from jury duty when the child is one year of age or younger. Under current law, nursing mothers are not explicitly exempted from jury duty, which can present a hardship to mothers who are nursing or expressing milk for their babies.

Currently, statutory exemptions from jury duty include those for persons: 75 years of age or older; who have served on a jury within the previous three years; or who will suffer severe hardship due to circumstances that are unlikely to change within a year (e.g., medical conditions or severe financial hardship compromising the ability to support oneself or one's dependents). Also exempted are members of volunteer fire departments, first aid squads, and rescue squads, and, under certain circumstances during a school term, elementary and secondary school teachers.

This bill would support mothers who are nursing or expressing milk and their infant children by enabling them to claim an exemption from jury duty during the first year of an infant child's life.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2024-2025 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1992

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Schnall and Rodriguez

SYNOPSIS

Exempts nursing mothers from jury duty.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/4/2024)

A1992 SPEIGHT, ATKINS

2

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2 N.J.S.2B:20-10.

3

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5 of New Jersey:

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11 three years in the county to which the juror is being summoned;

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13 circumstances which are not likely to change within the following
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16 is verified by a licensed physician.

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18 which will compromise the juror's ability to support himself,
19 herself, or dependents. In determining whether to excuse the
20 prospective juror, the Assignment Judge shall consider:

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31 (b) a child who is one year of age or younger where the
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33 milk for the child.

34 (4) The prospective juror provides highly specialized technical
35 health care services for which replacement cannot reasonably be
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44 cannot reasonably be obtained. In determining whether to excuse

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- 1 the prospective juror or grant a deferral of service, the Assignment
2 Judge shall consider:
- 3 (a) the impact on the school considering the number and
4 function of teachers called for jury service during the current
5 academic year; and
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7 providing continuity of instruction to students with disabilities;
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9 department or fire patrol; or
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11 rescue squad.
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16
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18 STATEMENT

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23 expressing milk for their babies.

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36 and lymphoma, and neurodevelopmental disorders. Breastfeeding
37 has also been associated with health benefits to mothers such as
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39 diabetes, breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

40 In 2011, the United States Surgeon General issued a “Call to
41 Action to Support Breastfeeding.” The State of New Jersey
42 Department of Health has recognized the benefits associated with
43 breastfeeding and has issued proposed guidelines for New Jersey
44 hospitals which are designed to encourage more mothers to
45 breastfeed in order to improve health outcomes of both mothers and
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47 It is the view of the sponsor that nursing mothers should be
48 supported in their efforts to breastfeed their babies. This bill

A1992 SPEIGHT, ATKINS

4

- 1 provides assistance to mothers who are nursing or expressing milk
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ASSEMBLY, No. 1992

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

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Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Schnell, Rodriguez, Sampson, Assemblywomen Bagolie and Ramirez

SYNOPSIS

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CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Judiciary Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2025)

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2 N.J.S.2B:20-10.

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A1992 SPEIGHT, ATKINS

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7 providing continuity of instruction to students with disabilities;
 - 8 d. The prospective juror is a member of a volunteer fire
9 department or fire patrol; or
 - 10 e. The prospective juror is a volunteer member of a first aid or
11 rescue squad.
- 12 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.3)
13
- 14 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to
15 jurors impaneled on or after the effective date.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1992

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 20, 2024

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1992.

This bill exempts nursing mothers from jury duty when the child is one year of age or younger. Under current law, nursing mothers are not explicitly exempted from jury duty, which can present a hardship to mothers who are nursing or expressing milk for their babies.

Currently, statutory exemptions from jury duty include those for persons: 75 years of age or older; who have served on a jury within the previous three years; or who will suffer severe hardship due to circumstances that are unlikely to change within a year (e.g., medical conditions or severe financial hardship compromising the ability to support oneself or one's dependents). Also exempted are members of volunteer fire departments, first aid squads, and rescue squads, and, under certain circumstances during a school term, elementary and secondary school teachers.

This bill would support mothers who are nursing or expressing milk and their infant children by enabling them to claim an exemption from jury duty during the first year of an infant child's life.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2024-2025 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 1992 is identical to Senate Bill No. 2236, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

Governor Phil Murphy Signs Bill Exempting Nursing Mothers from Jury Duty

04/22/2025

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today continued to build on his Administration’s commitment to supporting the health and well-being of mothers and babies by signing [S2236/A1992](#), which enables new mothers who are nursing to receive an exemption from jury duty. Under the bill, an individual may request to be excused from jury service if the prospective juror is a mother of a child one year of age or younger and is nursing or expressing milk for the child, and the request will be granted by the court.

“Balancing the demands of motherhood and civic duty can be challenging, especially for new mothers,” **said Governor Murphy**. “This bill ensures that our jury system remains fair for all while being compassionate and responsive to the needs of new mothers.”

“By exempting nursing mothers from jury duty, this bill acknowledges the unique personal health and caregiving challenges that new mothers face during the critical first few weeks and months after delivering a baby,” **said First Lady Tammy Murphy**. “This bill aligns with the many initiatives Nurture NJ has been involved in to create a more equitable and compassionate environment for all mothers in New Jersey. I am grateful to Phil and the entire Legislature for the unanimous passage of this bill, recognizing that the health and well-being of mothers and babies are fundamental to the future of our state.”

Governor Murphy has now signed 72 bills into law concerning maternal and infant health, which is the main focus of First Lady Tammy Murphy’s Nurture NJ initiative – a statewide effort dedicated to reducing maternal mortality and advancing equitable care among women and children of all races and ethnicities. In January 2021, the First Lady unveiled the [Nurture NJ Maternal and Infant Health Strategic Plan](#) – a strategic framework to make New Jersey the safest, most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby.

Since its launch in 2019, Nurture NJ has driven substantial progress in maternal and infant health. Over the past seven years, the initiative has started or completed over half of the Nurture NJ Strategic Plan recommendations; established the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority, tasked with overseeing the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center based in Trenton; and launched Family Connects NJ, the most robust-in-the-nation universal nurse home visitation program, to ensure that every new parent is visited by a nurse in their home for free within two weeks after bringing home a new baby. Through these bold initiatives and innovative policies, New Jersey has emerged as a national model in addressing the nation’s maternal and infant health crisis.

The prime sponsors of the bill, which unanimously passed both chambers, are Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz and Assemblywoman Shanique Speight. Other primary sponsors include Senator Brian Stack, Assemblyman Reginald Atkins, and Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson.

“Nursing a child in the first year of their life can be hugely demanding, especially as mothers find time to pump or breastfeed on schedule or cue. There has to be flexibility during this period for moms to feed their baby or build their

milk supply,” **said Senate Majority Leader Ruiz**. “Allowing for this exemption will ease the burden on a nursing mother.”

“Breastfeeding offers numerous health benefits to newborns,” **said Senator Stack**. “This legislation will make the wellbeing of our mothers and their children a priority over a jury duty requirement they can fulfill at a more suitable time.”

“We have a moral obligation to support new moms, and that includes helping women who choose to feed their babies by nursing or pumping, both of which offer lifelong benefits to the child,” **said Assemblywoman Speight**. “By exempting nursing and pumping mothers from jury duty for the first year of a child’s life, we are working to ease one of the challenges faced by many women as they adjust to motherhood.”

“Civic engagement should never come at the expense of a mother’s health or her ability to feed her child,” **said Assemblyman Atkins**. “This law brings much needed compassion and common sense to our jury selection process.”

“Too many nursing mothers have faced an impossible choice to serve their community through jury duty, or meet the basic needs of their child,” **said Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson**. “With this law, we are recognizing that civic duty and motherhood shouldn’t be in conflict.”

This bill will take effect immediately.

Posted on: April 22, 2025

Bill Supporting Nursing Mothers Signed into Law

Speight, Atkins, Reynolds-Jackson legislation will exempt nursing mothers from jury service

(TRENTON) — A bill that will allow nursing mothers to be exempt from jury duty was signed into law today. Bill [A1992](#), sponsored by Assemblywoman [Shanique Speight](#), Assemblyman [Reginald Atkins](#), and Assemblywoman [Verlina Reynolds-Jackson](#), takes a significant step toward ensuring fairness and compassion in New Jersey’s jury duty process.



Previously, nursing mothers were not explicitly exempted from jury duty, often creating a hardship for new moms. This law changes that by exempting nursing mothers from jury duty when the child is one year of age or younger.

“We have a moral obligation to support new moms, and that includes helping women who choose to feed their babies by nursing or pumping, both of which offer lifelong benefits to the child,” **said Assemblywoman Speight (D-Essex, Hudson)**. “By exempting nursing and pumping mothers from jury duty for the first year of a child’s life, we are working to ease one of the challenges faced by many women as they adjust to motherhood.”

“Civic engagement should never come at the expense of a mother’s health or her ability to feed her child,” **said Assemblyman Atkins (D-Union)**. “This law brings much needed compassion and common sense to our jury selection process.”

“Too many nursing mothers have faced an impossible choice to serve their community through jury duty, or meet the basic needs of their child,” **said Assemblyman Reynolds-Jackson (D Hunterdon, Mercer)**. “With this law, we are recognizing that civic duty and motherhood shouldn’t be in conflict.”