

2A:70-4; 2A:70-4.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

(Jury Commissioners - Use MV list of licensed drivers in compiling jury lists)

NJSA 2A:70-4, 2A:70-4.1

LAWS OF 1979

CHAPTER 271

Bill No. A159

Sponsor(s) Karcher and others

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Judiciary, Law, Public Safety and Defense

Senate Judiciary

Amended during passage Yes  Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly May 7, 1979

Senate Nov. 29, 1979

Date of approval Jan. 3, 1980

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes

Senate ~~Yes~~ No

Fiscal Note ~~Yes~~ No

Veto message ~~Yes~~ No

Message on signing Yes

Following were printed:

Reports ~~Yes~~ No

Hearings ~~Yes~~ No

DEPOSITORY COPY  
Do Not Remove From Library

EJ  
9/1/78

1000

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 159**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1978 SESSION

By Assemblymen KARCHER, OTLOWSKI, CODEY, KOZLOSKI,  
BORNHEIMER, COSTELLO, DOYLE, NEWMAN, BURNS,  
VISOTCKY, HOLLENBECK and CONTILLO

AN Act concerning juries and jury lists, amending N. J. S. 2A:70-4,  
\***[and N. J. S. 22A:1-1]**\* and supplementing Title 2A of the  
Revised Statutes.

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

1 1. N. J. S. 2A:70-4 is amended to read as follows:

2 2A:70-4. For the purpose of making up the jury lists, the jury  
3 commissioners shall have access to and may copy \***[the assessment**  
4 **rolls and]**\* registry lists of the several municipalities and election  
5 districts of their county *and lists, which shall be compiled by the*  
6 *Division of Motor Vehicles, of the names and addresses of the*  
7 *\***[registered motor vehicle owners and]**\* holders of motor vehicle*  
8 *driver licenses who are residents of their county. The commis-*  
9 *sioners \***[may also use any available data containing the names***  
10 *and addresses of county residents compiled by the United States*  
11 *Bureau of the Census. The commissioners shall make use of all*  
12 *authorized sources in making up jury lists in order to insure the*  
13 *boadest possible opportunity for participation by residents of the*  
14 *county.]\* \*shall use these lists to compile a single list from which*  
15 *all jurors shall be selected.\**

1 \***[2. N. J. S. 22A:1-1 is amended to read as follows:**

2 22A:1-1. Every person summoned as a petit juror in the Superior  
3 Court and the County Courts shall receive, for each day's attend-  
4 ance at such courts, to be paid by the sheriff of the county in which  
5 the juror shall serve, at the expiration of each term of service or  
6 at such other time or times within such terms as the board of chosen  
7 freeholders of the county shall direct, the sum of **[\$5.00]** \$25.00.  
8 **[The board of chosen freeholders of any county may, in its dis-**

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

9 cretion, by resolution reduce the aforesaid amount of \$5.00 to  
10-11 such an amount as the board may determine.】

12 Every person summoned as a petit juror in such courts shall  
13 receive, in addition to the above per diem allowance, for actual  
14 travel, while engaged in attending court, to and from the courthouse  
15 and his residence, mileage at the rate per mile of 【\$0.02】 \$0.10.  
16 The distance from the residence of the juror to the courthouse  
17 shall be computed by the most direct and usual route of travel  
18 between the two points and the first mile both ways from the  
19 courthouse shall be excluded from the computation.

20 The grand jurors and struck jurors in the several counties shall  
21 receive the same compensation, and shall be paid in the same  
22 manner as the petit jurors of the several counties.】\*

1 \*【3.】\* \*2.\* (New section) The Director of the Administrative  
2 Office of the Courts shall *\*monitor compliance with the provisions*  
2A *of this act, and\** prepare and furnish to the Legislature, on an  
3 annual basis, a report on the operation of the jury system in New  
4 Jersey, accompanying the same with any recommendations it may  
5 desire to recommend for adoption by the Legislature.

1 \*【4.】\* \*3.\* This act shall take effect 6 months following enact-  
2 ment.

---

12 Every person summoned as a petit juror in such courts shall  
 13 receive, in addition to the above per diem allowance, for actual  
 14 travel, while engaged in attending court, to and from the courthouse  
 15 and his residence, mileage at the rate per mile of ~~[\$0.02]~~ \$0.10.  
 16 The distance from the residence of the juror to the courthouse  
 17 shall be computed by the most direct and usual route of travel  
 18 between the two points and the first mile both ways from the  
 19 courthouse shall be excluded from the computation.

20 The grand jurors and struck jurors in the several counties shall  
 21 receive the same compensation, and shall be paid in the same  
 22 manner as the petit jurors of the several counties.

1 3. (New section) The Director of the Administrative Office of  
 2 the Courts shall prepare and furnish to the Legislature, on an  
 3 annual basis, a report on the operation of the jury system in New  
 4 Jersey, accompanying the same with any recommendations it may  
 5 desire to recommend for adoption by the Legislature.

1 4. This act shall take effect 6 months following enactment.

---

#### STATEMENT

Juries chosen from a representative community sample are a fundamental component in our system of justice. However, the limitations on sources which jury commissioners may use in compiling prospective jury lists and the reluctance of citizens to serve on juries because of the financial sacrifice involved have greatly hampered the justice system's ability to get juries which truly reflect community standards. The purpose of this bill is to improve this situation:

—By allowing jury commissioners to use lists provided by the Division of Motor Vehicles of motor vehicle owners and holders of motor vehicle licenses and any pertinent data compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census, in addition to the assessment rolls and voter registry lists presently used, in making up jury lists;

—By increasing the daily allowance for jurors from \$5.00 to \$25.00;

—By removing the ability of the county governing bodies to reduce the amount of the daily allowance for jurors;

—By increasing the mileage rate for jurors from \$0.02 to \$0.10 per mile; and

—By requiring that the Administrative Office of the Courts report to the Legislature annually on the operation of the jury system in New Jersey.

A. 159 (1979)

**ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 159**  
with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 22, 1979

Juries chosen from a representative community sample are a fundamental component in our system of justice. However, the limitations on sources which jury commissioners may use in compiling prospective jury lists and the reluctance of citizens to serve on juries because of the financial sacrifice involved have greatly hampered the justice system's ability to get juries which truly reflect community standards. The purpose of this bill is to improve this situation by requiring the jury commissioners to select jurors from a single list composed of all registered voters and all holders of motor vehicle drivers' licenses in the county.

The committee deleted the section authorizing raises in jurors' fees and mileage because the raise was addressed in Assembly Bill No. 232, which has been released by the committee.

The bill also requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to monitor compliance with these provisions of the act, and to annually prepare and furnish to the Legislature, a report on the operation of the jury system in New Jersey.

---

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

JANUARY 3, 1980

KATHRYN FORSYTH

Governor Brendan Byrne today signed the following bills in a public ceremony in his office:

A-159, sponsored by Assemblyman Alan Karcher (D-Middlesex) which gives county jury commissioners access to lists of registered drivers in their counties, in addition to voter registration lists, for use in jury selection.

The bill requires the Division of Motor Vehicles to compile lists of registered drivers by county of residence and make the lists available to county jury commissions.

Under prior law, jury commissions had access to assessment rolls and voter registration lists. Proponents of A-159 felt that these two lists did not provide as representative a community sample for jury duty as the justice system required. In addition, it was believed that the use of voter registration lists for jury selection worked against efforts to increase voter participation, since some people did not register to vote in order to avoid jury duty.

A-263, sponsored by Assemblyman Harold Martin (D-Bergen) which establishes a "Physician-Dentist Loan Redemption Program" to forgive up to 85% of the federal and state guaranteed loans of eligible graduates of the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Fairleigh Dickinson Dental School in exchange for medical services in areas designated as "medically underserved" by the State Commissioner of Health.

The purpose of the bill is to provide an incentive to young doctors and dentists to work in underserved areas and to encourage students who receive their medical training in New Jersey to remain in the state.

The state program will supplement a similar federal program, the National Health Services Program.

-more-