

Legislative Analysis



EXEMPT PHYSICIANS FROM JURY DUTY

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House Bill 4869 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Andy Schor
Committee: Judiciary
Complete to 11-25-15

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

This bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 by allowing physicians to claim exemption from jury duty during a period when they have one or more patients with immediate, imminent, and life-threatening health issues.

Most states, including Michigan, apply certain basic requirements to potential jurors: a juror must be a citizen of the United States, over age 18, and be able to speak English, among other requirements. Each state also list instances in which a citizen may be excused from jury duty specific to that state, whether because of disability, status as a student or member of a certain profession, or prior plans that cannot be rescheduled.

The practice of excusing physicians varies widely. Several states, including Hawaii and Maine, allow practicing physicians to claim exemptions from jury duty. Approximately 26 states do not currently have any exemptions for profession. Some of these, including Louisiana and Massachusetts, have removed exemptions for physicians. Many states include a broader exemption for those people for whom jury duty would present an "extreme hardship," which may apply to physicians who must care for ill patients. (National Center for State Courts)

MCL 600.1307a

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill appears to have no fiscal impact.

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