



SERVING CLERKS. UNIFYING EFFORTS. IMPROVING JUSTICE.

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Jamie L. Lassiter, MPA
Executive Director

Jamie.L.lassiter@nccourts.org
Post Office Box 2448
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

office 919.890.1440
fax 919.890.1943
cell 919.384.6438

Dear House Judiciary III Chairs and Staff:

House Bill 29, *Record of Excusals From Jury Duty* is unfortunately a bill we cannot support as a conference.

Master jury lists are drawn every two years. In today's mobile society many folks move in and out of county; the moves coincide with jury summons and elections.

For example, someone moves in October 2015 and they move back in January 2016 when a jury summons is sent. This is before a primary or general election in 2016. A request for excusal would be appropriate for the January summons and the right to vote would also be valid later that same year.

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This simply creates the illusion of malfeasance but does not solve any alleged issues and significantly increases our workload.

Additional areas of concern lie with no indication of what form the information should be provided to the BOE and there is no time requirements for providing this to the BOE. There are already in place reports done monthly for felons and deaths. If the intent is to report moving out of county, the bill needs to be more specific to avoid duplication of efforts and reporting.

As most clerks' offices use a form of jury service provider software, the need for the software capability to maintain the information requested electronically and ability to provide it for transmission to the BOE would need to be explored.

The purpose of the bill only assists the State Board of Elections with "list maintenance" and creates an undue hardship on understaffed Clerks' offices. If this bill request comes from the BOE or a driving force is looking for information, a **possible solution** is to require and fund a link between jury computer systems and the county board in each county. Then when the clerk enters the excuse and reason, the board will have the information requested. This achieves the purpose of the bill and eliminates the need to create an entirely new recordkeeping duty.

If we can answer any questions or provide further details related to this bill, please do not hesitate to contact us. We appreciate your time in addressing our concerns.

Thank you for your time and allowing our input on this bill,

Jamie Lassiter on behalf of the Conference of Clerks of Superior Court
Executive Director - NCCCSC