



January 9, 2026

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## SENATE BILL No. 139

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DIGEST OF SB 139 (Updated January 7, 2026 2:53 pm - DI 140)

**Citations Affected:** IC 33-28.

**Synopsis:** Jury duty exemption for women breastfeeding. Exempts a woman who is breastfeeding from jury duty. Sets forth requirements.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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**Donato, Doriot**

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January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.  
January 8, 2026, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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SB 139—LS 6541/DI 104





January 9, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 139

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning courts and court officers.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 33-28-5-18, AS AMENDED BY P.L.157-2009,  
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18. (a) The supervising judge or the jury  
4 administrator shall determine whether a prospective juror is qualified  
5 to serve or, if disabled but otherwise qualified, whether the prospective  
6 juror could serve with reasonable accommodation. A person who is not  
7 eligible for jury service may not serve. The facts supporting juror  
8 disqualification or exemption must be recorded under oath or  
9 affirmation. A disqualification or exemption is not authorized unless  
10 supported by the facts. The jury administrator shall make a record of all  
11 disqualifications.  
12 (b) A prospective juror is disqualified to serve on a jury if any of the  
13 following conditions exist:  
14 (1) The person is not a citizen of the United States, at least  
15 eighteen (18) years of age, and a resident of the county.  
16 (2) The person is unable to read, speak, and understand the  
17 English language with a degree of proficiency sufficient to fill out

SB 139—LS 6541/DI 104



satisfactorily a juror qualification form.

(3) The person is incapable of rendering satisfactory jury service due to physical or mental disability. However, a person claiming this disqualification may be required to submit a physician's or authorized Christian Science practitioner's certificate confirming the disability, and the certifying physician or practitioner is then subject to inquiry by the court at the court's discretion.

(4) A guardian has been appointed for the person under IC 29-3 because the person has a mental incapacity.

(5) The person has had the right to vote revoked by reason of a felony conviction and the right has not been restored.

(c) A person scheduled to appear for jury service has the right to defer the date of the person's initial appearance for jury service one (1) time upon a showing of hardship, extreme inconvenience, or necessity. The court shall grant a prospective juror's request for deferral if the following conditions are met:

(1) The prospective juror has not previously been granted a deferral.

(2) The prospective juror requests a deferral by contacting the jury administrator:

(A) by telephone;

(B) by electronic mail;

(C) in writing; or

(D) in person.

(3) The prospective juror selects another date on which the prospective juror will appear for jury service that is:

(A) not more than one (1) year after the date upon which the prospective juror was originally scheduled to appear; and

(B) a date when the court will be in session.

(4) The court determines that the prospective juror has demonstrated that a deferral is necessary due to:

(A) hardship;

(B) extreme inconvenience; or

(C) necessity.

(d) A prospective juror ~~who is at least seventy-five (75) years of age~~ may be exempted from jury service if the prospective juror notifies the jury administrator that the prospective juror **meets any of the following:**

**(1) Is at least seventy-five (75) years of age and wishes to be exempted from jury service.**

**(2) Is a woman who:**

**(A) has given birth in the preceding three hundred**



1           **sixty-five (365) days;**

2           **(B) is currently breastfeeding the baby; and**

3           **(C) wishes to be exempted from jury service.**

4           (e) A person may not serve as a petit juror in any county if the  
5 person served as a petit juror in the same county within the previous  
6 three hundred sixty-five (365) days in a case that resulted in a verdict.  
7 The fact that a person's selection as a juror would violate this  
8 subsection is sufficient cause for challenge.

9           (f) A grand jury, a petit jury, or an individual juror drawn for service  
10 in one (1) court may serve in another court of the county, in accordance  
11 with orders entered on the record in each of the courts.

12           (g) The same petit jurors may be used in civil cases and in criminal  
13 cases.

14           (h) A person may not be excluded from jury service on account of  
15 race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status.



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 139, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

(Reference is to SB 139 as introduced.)

CARRASCO, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0

**SB 139—LS 6541/DI 104**

