
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1359 (Ahrens) - Jury service exemptions

Version: January 5, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: JUD. 11 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 1359 would authorize a person 80 years of age or older to seek a permanent excuse from jury duty without providing a supporting letter, memorandum, or note from a treating health care provider.

Fiscal Impact: One time significant costs to the Judicial Council (JC) for jury management system upgrades; minor, absorbable costs to create model summons that reflect the change in jury exemption policy.

Unknown, potentially moderate costs associated with mailing additional juror summons as responses to the exempted individuals are received. Unknown, potentially significant reductions in staff time associated with processing fewer excusal requests on a case-by-case basis. Courts do not have juror demographic data in their jury management systems and the potential impact on juror rolls is unknown.

Minor, absorbable costs to adopt or revise a rule of court. Generally, one year is needed to complete the approval process and provide a public comment period (General Fund).

Background: No eligible person shall be exempt from service as a trial juror by reason of occupation, economic status, or any characteristic listed or defined in Section 11135 of the Government Code (discrimination), or for any other reason except that an eligible person may be excused from jury service only for undue hardship, upon themselves or upon the public, as defined by the JC.

Proposed Law: A person 80 years of age or older who seeks a permanent excuse from jury service shall be permanently excused from jury service. The JC may adopt or amend a rule of court and publish related judicial forms as necessary.

Author Amendments: The amendment (RN 17319) will make January 1, 2028 the operative date of the bill, thereby providing sufficient time for the JC to upgrade its jury management system and to adopt forms and rules amendments.