

By: Senator(s) Simmons (12th)

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2882

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 13-5-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF A JUROR TO THOSE CITIZENS WHO HAVE A
3 CURRENT AND VALID MISSISSIPPI DRIVER'S LICENSE AND WHO HAVE FILED
4 STATE INCOME TAXES; TO AMEND SECTION 13-5-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
5 1972, TO CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 13-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 13-5-1. * * * (1) A competent juror is any citizen not
10 under the age of twenty-one (21) years, who * * *:

11 (a) Has a current and valid Mississippi driver's
12 license;

13 (b) Has filed state income taxes for at least one (1)
14 of the two (2) previous tax years;

15 (c) Is able to read and write * * *;

16 (d) Has not been convicted of an infamous crime, or the
17 unlawful sale of intoxicating liquors within a period of five (5)
18 years; and * * *

19 (e) Is not a common gambler or habitual drunkard * * *.

20 No person who is or has been within twelve (12) months the
21 overseer of a public road or road contractor shall, however, be
22 competent to serve as a grand juror. The lack of any such
23 qualifications on the part of one or more jurors shall not,
24 however, vitiate an indictment or verdict. Moreover, no talesman
25 or tales juror shall be qualified who has served as such talesman
26 or tales juror in the last preceding two (2) years, and no juror
27 shall serve on any jury who has served as such for the last
28 preceding two (2) years. No juror shall serve who has a case of
29 his own pending in that court, provided there are sufficient
30 qualified jurors in the district, and for trial at that term.

31 (2) (a) In order to determine that prospective jurors can
32 read and write, the presiding judge shall, with the assistance of
33 the clerk, distribute to the jury panel a form to be completed
34 personally by each juror prior to being empaneled as follows:

35 "1. Your name _____ last _____ first _____ middle
36 initial

37 2. Your home address _____

38 3. Your occupation _____

39 4. Your age _____

40 5. Your telephone number _____ If none, write none

41 6. If you live outside the county seat, the number of miles
42 you live from the courthouse _____ miles

43

44

Sign your name"



45 (b) The judge shall personally examine the answers of
46 each juror prior to empaneling the jury and each juror who cannot
47 complete the above form shall be disqualified as a juror and
48 discharged.

49 (c) A list of any jurors disqualified for jury duty by
50 reason of inability to complete the form shall be kept by the
51 circuit clerk and their names shall not be placed in the jury box
52 thereafter until such person can qualify as above provided.

53 **SECTION 2.** Section 13-5-8, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
54 amended as follows:

55 13-5-8. (1) In April of each year, the jury commission for
56 each county shall compile and maintain a master list consisting
57 of * * * citizens within the county who (a) possess a valid
58 Mississippi driver's license, and (b) have filed state income
59 taxes for at least one (1) of the two (2) previous tax years.

60 (2) The circuit clerk of the county and the registrar of
61 voters shall have the duty to certify to the commission during the
62 month of January of each year under the seal of his office the
63 voter registration list for the county; the list shall exclude any
64 person who has been permanently excused from jury service pursuant
65 to Section 13-5-23(4). Any person who has been excluded from the
66 master list for jury service may be reinstated to the master list
67 after one (1) year by requesting that the circuit clerk reinstate
68 him to the master list.



69 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
70 and after July 1, 2025.

