



## 2026 South Dakota Legislature

# House Bill 1081

Introduced by: **Representative Sjaarda**

1 **An Act to exempt certain individuals from, and require specific notice for, jury duty.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 16-13:**

4 A licensed health care provider who is providing medical care to a pregnant woman  
5 or an individual with a serious medical condition is exempt from jury duty if, within ten  
6 days of receiving a summons for jury duty, the provider submits to the clerk of court a  
7 written request for exemption and written documentation stating:

8 (1) No equally qualified individual is available to fulfill the provider's job duties; and  
9 (2) The provider's absence from medical practice may, with regard to the provider's  
10 patient:

11 (a) Result in hardship to the patient;  
12 (b) Complicate or inhibit the patient's access to required medical care;  
13 (c) Result in the patient experiencing uncontrolled pain;  
14 (d) Result in the worsening of the patient's disease processes; or  
15 (e) Potentially result in the death of the patient.

16 For the purposes of this section, "licensed health care provider" means a licensed  
17 physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, or nurse midwife.

18 **Section 2. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 16-13:**

19 A public safety worker is exempt from jury duty if, within ten days of receiving a  
20 summons for jury duty, the worker submits to the clerk of court a written request for  
21 exemption and written documentation stating:

22 (1) No equally qualified individual is available to fulfill the worker's job duties; and  
23 (2) The worker's absence from regular job duties may pose a risk to the health and  
24 safety of the public.

1           For the purposes of this section, "public safety worker" means a law enforcement  
2           officer as defined by § 23-3-27, firefighter, hazardous and disaster response team  
3           member, or emergency medical service personnel.

4           **Section 3. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 16-13:**

5           An individual is exempt from jury duty if, within ten days of receiving a summons  
6           for jury duty, the individual submits to the clerk of court a written request for exemption  
7           and written documentation stating:

8           (1) The requesting individual is solely responsible for the daily care of another  
9           individual with a permanent disability;

10           (2) The individual with a permanent disability lives in the requesting individual's  
11           household; and

12           (3) The performance of jury service by the requesting individual would result in  
13           substantial risk of injury to the health of the individual with a permanent disability.

14           This section does not apply to an individual who is regularly employed at a location  
15           other than the person's household.

16           **Section 4. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 16-13:**

17           In addition to the notice required by § 16-13-34, the clerk of courts shall notify a  
18           juror of the specific date on which the juror is required to physically appear before the  
19           court for jury service on a grand or petit jury, at least fourteen days prior to that date.