



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.