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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2045**

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled January 13, 2009

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 8.01-341.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to exemption from jury service; students.*

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Patron—Gear

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Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 8.01-341.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 8.01-341.1. Exemptions from jury service upon request.

Any of the following persons may serve on juries in civil and criminal cases but shall be exempt from jury service upon his request:

1. through 3. [Repealed.]

4. A mariner actually employed in maritime service,

5. through 7. [Repealed.]

8. A person who has legal custody of and is necessarily and personally responsible for a child or children 16 years of age or younger requiring continuous care by him during normal court hours, or any mother who is breast-feeding a child,

9. A person who is necessarily and personally responsible for a person having a physical or mental impairment requiring continuous care by him during normal court hours,

10. Any person over 70 years of age,

11. Any person whose spouse is summoned to serve on the same jury panel,

12. Any person who is the only person performing services for a business, commercial or agricultural enterprise and whose services are so essential to the operations of the business, commercial or agricultural enterprise that such enterprise must close or cease to function if such person is required to perform jury duty,

13. Any person employed by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates, the Office of the Clerk of the Senate, the Division of Legislative Services, and the Division of Legislative Automated Systems, however, this exemption shall apply only to jury service starting (i) during the period beginning 60 days prior to the day any regular session commences and ending 30 days after the day of adjournment of such session and (ii) during the period beginning seven days prior to the day any reconvened or special session commences and ending seven days after the day of adjournment of such session; and

14. Any person who is enrolled in and attends, as a full-time student, an accredited public or private institution of higher education that is located more than 50 miles away from the court where he is summoned to jury service; however, this exemption shall apply only to jury service during any term of court while classes are in session at the institution of higher education.

INTRODUCED

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