

HB 1213 -- JURY SERVICE

SPONSOR: Moore

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 16 to 1.

Under current law, a person is disqualified from serving as a juror if that person is unable to read, speak, and understand English. This bill establishes an exception to that disqualification when the person's disability is due to a vision or hearing impairment which can be adequately compensated for through the use of auxiliary aids or services.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that current law is discriminatory, contrary to federal law, and disqualifies some otherwise eligible citizens of the state from performing their civic duty.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Moore and Lowe; and Parquad, Incorporated.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst