

Melissa G. Ballard proposes the following substitute bill:

Juror Eligibility Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Melissa G. Ballard

Senate Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses juror eligibility.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- addresses juror eligibility of an individual who has been convicted of a felony; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

78B-1-105, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **78B-1-105** is amended to read:

78B-1-105 . Jurors -- Competency to serve -- Individuals not competent to serve as jurors -- Court to determine disqualification.

(1) ~~[A person]~~ An individual is competent to serve as a juror if the ~~[person]~~ individual is:

- (a) a citizen of the United States;
- (b) 18 years ~~[of age]~~ old or older;
- (c) a resident of the county; and
- (d) able to read, speak, and understand the English language.

~~[(2) A person who has been convicted of a felony which has not been expunged is not competent to serve as a juror.]~~

(2) An individual who has been convicted of a felony in a state or federal court of the

30 United States is not competent to serve as a juror unless the felony conviction has been
31 expunged or reduced to a misdemeanor.

32 (3) The court, on [its] the court's own initiative or when requested by a prospective juror,
33 shall determine whether the prospective juror is disqualified from jury service.

34 (4) The court shall base [its] the court's decision on:

35 (a) information provided on the juror qualification form;

36 (b) an interview with the prospective juror; or

37 (c) other competent evidence.

38 [(4)] (5) The clerk shall enter the court's determination in the records of the court.

39 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

40 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.