

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of committee:

Committee on Justice Initiatives

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Bill Number:

[HB 4931](#) (Lemmons) Courts; juries; lists of persons available for creating juror pools; expand. Amends sec. 1304 of [1961 PA 236](#) (MCL [600.1304](#)) & adds secs. 1310a, 1310b, 1310c & 1310d.

[HB 4932](#) (Lemmons) Courts; juries; names and addresses of persons receiving unemployment benefits; allow to be disclosed to jury boards for selecting jury pools. Amends 1936 (Ex Sess) PA 1 (MCL [421.1](#) - [421.75](#)) by adding sec. 54d.

[HB 4933](#) (Lemmons) Courts; juries; names of persons receiving public assistance; allow to be disclosed to jury boards for selecting jury pools. Amends sec. 64 of [1939 PA 280](#) (MCL [400.64](#)).

[HB 4934](#) (Lemmons) Courts; juries; names and addresses of taxpayers; allow to be disclosed to jury boards for selecting jury pools. Amends sec. 28 of [1941 PA 122](#) (MCL [205.28](#)).

[HB 4755](#) (Cushingberry) Courts; juries; names and addresses of taxpayers; allow to be given to jury boards for purposes of selecting juror pools. Amends sec. 28 of [1941 PA 122](#) (MCL [205.28](#)).

[HB 4859](#) (Cushingberry) Courts; juries; jury pool selection process; revise. Amends secs. 1304, 1312 & 1321 of [1961 PA 236](#) (MCL [600.1304](#) et seq.) & adds secs. 1301c, 1310a & 1310b.

Date position was adopted:

January 8, 2008

Process used to take the ideological position:

Position adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting.

Number of members in the decision-making body:

19

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

10 Voted for position

0 Abstained from vote



Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

CJI supports the above bills to expand juror pools and obtain more diverse membership. CJI urges the Bar to participate in a workgroup or any other process which allows ways to address the following concerns: (1) because some people on some kinds of public assistance are not actually citizens of the United States, there is the possibility of a mistrial, if a non-citizen was on a jury; (2) individuals may be on the lists multiple times, (3) low income persons on public assistance, especially in rural areas, often have greater difficulty in finding reliable and affordable transportation to the courthouse, (4) a number of people on public assistance have disabilities or limited literacy that will make it difficult for them to read and/or respond to jury duty notices. We are concerned that such individuals may find themselves held in contempt for failure to appear, and; (5) persons with outstanding violations such as unpaid parking tickets, etc. be protected from prosecution during their participation in jury pool selection or jury duty.

The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2007-HB-4931>

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<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2007-HB-4934>

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2007-HB-4755>

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2007-HB-4859>

FOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES ONLY:

This position falls within the following Keller-permissible category:

- The regulation and discipline of attorneys
- ✓ The improvement of the functioning of the courts
- The availability of legal services to society
- The regulation of attorney trust accounts
- The regulation of the legal profession, including the education, the ethics, the competency, and the integrity of the profession.

Keller-permissible explanation: Expanding the jury pool and obtaining a diverse population to draw from is an improvement of the functioning of the courts.