

SENATE No. 1649

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act to improve juror service responses..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 8-9,
2 the following: “the juror confirmation form” and inserting in place thereof the following: - “a
3 juror summons response”

4 SECTION 2. Section 21 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line 5,
5 the following: “, and an alternate month, day, and year,”

6 SECTION 3. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 1-2,
7 the following: “return the juror confirmation form, duly completed and signed,” and inserting in
8 place thereof the following: - “respond to the juror summons”

9 SECTION 4. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line 4,
10 the following: “envelope for this purpose.” and inserting in place thereof the following: - “means
11 by which jurors can respond.”

12 SECTION 5. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line 7,
13 the following: “return the completed confirmation form” and inserting in place thereof the
14 following: - “respond to the juror summons”

15 SECTION 6. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line 8,
16 the following: “confirmation form” and inserting in place thereof the following: - “juror
17 summons”

18 SECTION 7. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 8-
19 12, the following: “Where a juror is unable to return a juror confirmation form because of its loss
20 or destruction or where there is insufficient time for the juror to confirm by mail, the office of
21 jury commissioner may accept an oral confirmation from the juror by telephone or in person.”
22 and inserting in place thereof the following: - “Grand and trial jurors may confirm their service
23 by any other means approved by the jury commissioner including, but not limited to, telephonic
24 and electronic means.”

25 SECTION 8. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line 12,
26 the following word: “oral”

27 SECTION 9. Section 25 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 2-3,
28 the following: “duly completed and signed juror confirmation form” and inserting in place
29 thereof the following: - “response to the juror summons”

30 SECTION 10. Section 25 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line 9,
31 the following: “and questionnaire”

32 SECTION 11. Section 25 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines
33 10-11, the following: “return a duly completed and signed juror confirmation form within five
34 days of its receipt.” and inserting in place thereof the following: - “respond to the second
35 summons within five days of its receipt by the any of the means set forth in the provisions of
36 section twenty-four of this chapter.”

37 SECTION 12. Section 26 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 3-
38 4, the following: “returned juror confirmation forms” and inserting in place thereof the
39 following: - “responses to the juror summonses”

40 SECTION 13. Section 26 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 6-
41 7, the following: “return a duly completed and signed juror confirmation form” and inserting in
42 place thereof the following: - “respond to the juror summons”

43 SECTION 14. Section 26 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 9-
44 10, the following: “duly completed and signed juror confirmation form” and inserting in place
45 thereof the following: - “response to the juror summons”

46 SECTION 15. Section 26 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines
47 16-17, the following: “return a duly completed and signed juror confirmation form within five
48 days of its receipt.” and inserting in place thereof the following: - “respond to the second
49 summons within five days of its receipt by the any of the means set forth in the provisions of
50 section twenty-four of this chapter.”

51 SECTION 16. Section 34 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 3-
52 4, the following: “duly completing and returning the juror confirmation form in which his

53 election to postpone shall be indicated.” and inserting in place thereof the following: -
54 “responding to the juror summons and indicating his or her election to postpone.”

55 SECTION 17. Section 34 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 4-
56 6, the following: “The month and date, and an alternate month and date, to which the service is
57 postponed shall be indicated in the confirmation form.” and inserting in place thereof the
58 following: - “The month, day, and year to which the service is postponed shall be indicated in the
59 response to the juror summons.”

60 SECTION 18. Section 34 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines
61 10-12, the following: “the alternate postponement date unless date[1] is also improper,
62 unavailable, or inconvenient in which case the office of jury commissioner shall assign”

63 SECTION 19. Section 36 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 1-
64 2, the following: “the juror confirmation form” and inserting in place thereof the following: - “a
65 response to the juror summons”.