

AN ACT concerning courts.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Jury Act is amended by changing Section 20 as follows:

(705 ILCS 305/20) (from Ch. 78, par. 20)

Sec. 20. (a) It shall be the duty of the clerk of the court at the commencement of each week at which any cause is to be tried by a jury to write the name of each petit juror summoned and retained for that week on a separate ticket, and put the whole into a box or other place for safekeeping; and as often as it shall be necessary to impanel a jury, the clerk, sheriff or coroner shall, in the presence of the court, draw by chance 12 names (or from 14 up to and including 16 where alternate jurors are required) out of such box or other place, which shall designate the persons to be sworn on the jury, and in the same manner for the second jury, in their turn, as the court may order and direct. The attorney for any party litigant in any cause assigned to jury trial shall have the right to be present in person at the time and place when the random selection of jurors for trial of said cause is drawn by lot to be assigned to the trial judge for voir dire examination; a party litigant whose attorney is present at the selection

process waives any objection to the selection procedure unless the same is asserted prior to the time any prospective juror is called for voir dire examination.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), names of jurors may be randomly drawn by computer.

(c) The changes made to this Section by this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly apply to actions commenced or pending on or after January 1, 2026.

(Source: P.A. 86-1053.)

Section 10. The Code of Civil Procedure is amended by changing Section 2-1106 as follows:

(735 ILCS 5/2-1106) (from Ch. 110, par. 2-1106)

Sec. 2-1106. Peremptory challenges - Alternate jurors. (a) Each side shall be entitled to 5 peremptory challenges. If there is more than one party on any side, the court may allow each side additional peremptory challenges, not to exceed 3, on account of each additional party on the side having the greatest number of parties. Each side shall be allowed an equal number of peremptory challenges. If the parties on a side are unable to agree upon the allocation of peremptory challenges among themselves, the allocation shall be determined by the court.

(b) The court may direct that up to and including 4 1 or 2 jurors in addition to the regular panel be impanelled to serve

as alternate jurors. Alternate jurors, in the sequence in which they are ordered into the jury box, shall replace jurors who, prior to the time the jury retires to consider its verdict, become unable to perform their duties. Alternate jurors shall be drawn in the same manner, have the same qualifications, be subject to the same examination and challenges, take the same oath, and have the same functions, powers, facilities, and privileges as the principal jurors. An alternate juror who does not replace a principal juror shall be discharged at the time the jury retires to consider its verdict. If alternate jurors are called each side shall be allowed one additional peremptory challenge, regardless of the number of alternate jurors called. The additional peremptory challenge may be used only against an alternate juror, but any unexercised peremptory challenges may be used against an alternate juror.

(c) The changes made to this Section by this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly apply to actions commenced or pending on or after January 1, 2026.

(Source: P.A. 83-707.)