

# Legislative Analysis

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## JUROR QUALIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRES

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**House Bill 4054 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Steve Bieda**  
**Committee: Judiciary**

### First Analysis (2-16-05)

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** The bill would permit local jury boards, with approval by the chief circuit court judge, to remove convicted felons from the first jury list.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The bill would have no fiscal impact.

### **THE APPARENT PROBLEM:**

Currently, under the Revised Judicature Act, anyone convicted of a felony is disqualified from jury service. However, convicted felons (by virtue of possessing a driver's license or state identification card) may be chosen in the first jury list and sent a juror qualifications questionnaire. Sending convicted felons a jury qualifications questionnaire is, some believe, not necessary given that they are automatically ineligible from serving on a jury.

### **THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:**

The bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act (MCL 600.1312) to allow a jury board, if approved by the chief circuit judge, to remove from the first jury list the name of any person convicted of a felony and therefore disqualified from serving as a juror under Section 1307A(1)(e) of the act.

### **ARGUMENTS:**

#### **For:**

By permitting removing convicted felons from the first jury list, the bill could potentially save counties money when mailing jury questionnaires. In addition, the bill protects against the possibility (albeit a remote one) where a convicted juror is placed on a jury panel (which could provide grounds for an appeal of a verdict). Reportedly, in rare instances, a convicted felon has made it as far as the courtroom before being dismissed.

### **POSITIONS:**

There are no positions at present

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