

# HOUSE . . . . No. 174

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By Mr. Pratt of Saugus, petition of Frank W. Osborne that provision be made for optional service of women on juries. Judiciary (Joint).

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-One.

An Act providing for Optional Service of Women on Juries.

*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 one of chapter two hundred  
2 and thirty-four of the General Laws, as amended  
3 by section one of chapter four hundred and thirteen  
4 of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-three,  
5 and by section one of chapter three hundred and  
6 eleven of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-  
7 four, is hereby further amended by adding at the  
8 end thereof the following new paragraph:—

9 Except as otherwise provided in section twenty-  
10 four A, women shall be liable to serve as jurors  
11 to the same extent, and subject, so far as applica-  
12 ble, to the same exemptions, as men, but with  
13 additional exemptions in case of women trained  
14 nurses, women assistants in hospitals and women  
15 attendant nurses.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter two hundred and thirty-  
2 four is hereby further amended by inserting after  
3 section twenty-four the following new section:—

4 *Section 24A.* Any woman desiring to be ex-  
5 cused from jury service may claim exemption by  
6 signing a written or printed notice thereof and re-  
7 turning the same to the sheriff before the date for  
8 appearance, and if exemption is so claimed by rea-  
9 son of sex, no appearance need be made in answer  
10 to said summons. The officer summoning a woman  
11 for jury duty shall inform her of the provisions of  
12 this section and shall furnish her with a written or  
13 printed blank on which to make such claim for  
14 exemption.

1 SECTION 3. On or before October first, nineteen  
2 hundred and thirty-two, the county commissioners  
3 or other officers having the custody of court houses  
4 in which jury sessions are held shall provide ade-  
5 quate accommodations therein for women jurors.

1 SECTION 4. Section one shall not take effect  
2 until after the preparation of jury lists for the year  
3 nineteen hundred and thirty-one.



