



# HOUSE BILL 365: Require That Jurors Be US Citizens.

2023-2024 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 19, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Cleveland, Crutchfield, Carson Smith, Sossamon	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Brad Krehely Staff Attorney
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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 365 would require that jurors be citizens of the United States.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Chapter 9 of the General Statutes governs the process of summoning prospective jurors for trials of cases in superior and district courts, including the compilation of a jury list and the selection of jurors. With respect to juror service, the qualifications are codified in G.S. 9-3.

## **G.S. 9-3. Qualifications of prospective jurors.**

Qualified jurors must:

- Be a citizen of the State.
- Be a resident of the county where the summons was issued.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be physically and mentally competent.
- Be able to understand English.

Qualified jurors must NOT:

- Have served as a juror during the previous two years.
- Have served a full term as a grand juror in the last six years.
- Have a felony conviction unless citizenship rights have been restored. (Citizenship and voting rights are automatically restored upon completion of the sentence. No special document is needed.)

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 365 would codify the holding of the North Carolina Supreme Court in *Hinton v. Hinton*, 196 N.C. 341 (1928) requiring United States citizenship as a qualification for jury service.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would be effective when it became law.

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