

HB 1320 -- JURY SERVICE (Ellinger)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities

Currently, a mother may, with as much discretion as possible, breast-feed her child in any public or private location where the mother is otherwise authorized to be. This bill removes the requirement that a mother use as much discretion as possible and instead requires that the mother use discretion. The bill also allows a mother to express breast milk in any public or private location where the mother is otherwise authorized to be.

The bill specifies that the act of a mother breast-feeding a child or expressing milk in a public or private location where the mother and child are otherwise authorized to be must not:

(1) Constitute sexual conduct or sexual contact as defined in Section 566.010, RSMo; or

(2) Be considered an act of public indecency, indecent exposure, sexual conduct, lewd touching, or obscenity or any other similar term for purposes of state or municipal law.

The bill prohibits a municipality from enacting an ordinance that prohibits or restricts a mother from breast-feeding a child or expressing breast milk in a public or private location where the mother and child are otherwise authorized to be.

The bill includes a nursing mother as someone entitled to be excused from jury service, upon her request and with a completed written statement from her physician to the court certifying that she is a nursing mother.