

1 AN ACT concerning juries.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Juror  
5 Protection Act.

6 Section 5. Juror contact. A person who represents himself  
7 or herself during any phase of a jury trial and is subsequently  
8 found guilty of any charge must seek and obtain leave of the  
9 court prior to making any attempt to contact any member of the  
10 jury panel, regardless of the reason for inquiry.

11 Section 10. Court petition; process.

12 (a) The defendant shall file with the court where his or  
13 her case was heard a petition laying forth the reasons why  
14 juror contact is necessary or otherwise appropriate.

15 (b) Upon receipt of the petition, the circuit clerk for the  
16 court shall forward a copy of the petition to the State's  
17 Attorney or other prosecuting attorney. Where a response to the  
18 petition is deemed warranted, the State's Attorney or other  
19 prosecuting attorney shall have 5 days to file a response.

20 (c) The court shall, within 7 days of receipt of the  
21 petition and response, where one is filed, rule on the merits  
22 of the request.

23 (d) The court may, but is not required to, hold a hearing  
24 on the merits of the petition.

25 (e) If the petition is granted, the court shall, within 7  
26 days of the ruling, arrange for the defendant to be transported  
27 to the courthouse to take part in the call. All phone calls  
28 shall be made by an officer of the court and shall be made  
29 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through  
30 Friday. The court officer shall identify himself or herself to  
31 the recipient of the call, ask to speak to the juror in

1 question, identify the purpose for the call, and ask the juror  
2 if he or she is willing to speak to the defendant. If the juror  
3 consents, the defendant shall be allowed to speak to the juror  
4 under the supervision of the court officer. If the juror  
5 refuses, no further contact may be made by or on behalf of the  
6 defendant. If there is no answer at the provided phone number,  
7 the officer of the court shall leave a message outlining the  
8 above and requesting that the juror contact the court officer  
9 to indicate whether or not he or she will speak to the  
10 defendant.

11 Section 15. Violation. Any attempt to contact a member of  
12 the jury panel following that member's refusal to speak as  
13 outlined in subsection (e) of Section 10 shall be deemed a  
14 violation of Section 32-4 of the Criminal Code of 1961.

15 Section 300. The Criminal Code of 1961 is amended by  
16 changing Section 32-4 as follows:

17 (720 ILCS 5/32-4) (from Ch. 38, par. 32-4)

18 Sec. 32-4. Communicating with jurors and witnesses.

19 (a) A person who, with intent to influence any person whom  
20 he believes has been summoned as a juror, regarding any matter  
21 which is or may be brought before such juror, communicates,  
22 directly or indirectly, with such juror otherwise than as  
23 authorized by law commits a Class 4 felony.

24 (b) A person who, with intent to deter any party or witness  
25 from testifying freely, fully and truthfully to any matter  
26 pending in any court, or before a Grand Jury, Administrative  
27 agency or any other State or local governmental unit, forcibly  
28 detains such party or witness, or communicates, directly or  
29 indirectly, to such party or witness any knowingly false  
30 information or a threat of injury or damage to the property or  
31 person of any individual or offers or delivers or threatens to  
32 withhold money or another thing of value to any individual  
33 commits a Class 3 felony.

1           (c) A person who violates the Juror Protection Act commits  
2           a Class 4 felony.

3           (Source: P.A. 91-696, eff. 4-13-00.)