

GENERAL STATUTES

OF THE

STATE OF MINNESOTA,

IN FORCE JANUARY, 1891.

VOL. 2.

CONTAINING ALL THE LAW OF A GENERAL NATURE NOW IN FORCE AND NOT IN
VOL. 1, THE SAME BEING THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE AND ALL REME-
DIAL LAW, THE PROBATE CODE, THE PENAL CODE AND THE CRIM-
INAL PROCEDURE, THE CONSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIC ACTS.

COMPILED AND ANNOTATED

BY

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SECOND EDITION.

ST. PAUL:

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

1891.

CHAPTER 102 (G. S. ch. 116).

CHALLENGING JURORS.]

Sections.
6827-6830. In general.
6831-6837. Challenge to the panel.

Sections.
6838-6852. Challenge to individual juror.
6853-6860. Trial of challenge.

IN GENERAL.

SEC. 6827. **Challenge defined.**—A challenge is an objection made to a trial jury, and is of two kinds:

- First. To the panel.
- Second. To an individual juror.

G. S. ch. 116, § 1.

SEC. 6828. **Several defendants join.**—When several defendants are tried together, they cannot sever the challenges, but shall join therein.

G. S. ch. 116, § 2.

SEC. 6829. **Defendant to challenge first.**—All challenges to an individual juror shall be taken first by the defendant, and then by the state; and each party shall exhaust all his challenges before the other begins.

G. S. ch. 116, § 32. 20 M. 376.

SEC. 6830. **Order of challenging.**—The challenges of either party need not all be taken at once; but they may be taken separately, in the following order, including in each challenge all the causes of challenge belonging to the same class:

- First. To the panel;
- Second. To an individual juror, for a general disqualification;
- Third. To an individual juror, for implied bias;
- Fourth. To an individual juror, for actual bias.

G. S. ch. 116, § 33. 25 M. 33.

CHALLENGE TO THE PANEL.

SEC. 6831. **Defined.**—A challenge to the panel is an objection made to all the petit or trial jurors returned, and may be taken by either party.

G. S. ch. 116, § 3.

SEC. 6832. **Grounds for.**—A challenge to the panel can be founded only on a material departure from the forms prescribed by law, in respect to the drawing and return of the jury.

G. S. ch. 116, § 4. 13 M. 341.

SEC. 6833. **When and how taken.**—A challenge to the panel shall be taken before a jury is sworn, and shall be in writing, specifying plainly and distinctly the facts constituting the ground of challenge.

G. S. ch. 116, § 5. 1 M. 347.

SEC. 6834. **Exception to challenge.**—If the sufficiency of the facts alleged as a ground of challenge is denied, the adverse party may except to the challenge; the exception need not be in writing, but shall be entered upon the minutes of the court; and thereupon the court shall proceed to try the sufficiency of the challenge, assuming the facts alleged therein to be true.

G. S. ch. 116, § 6.

SEC. 6835. **Withdrawal—Amendment.**—If, on the exception, the court deems the challenge sufficient, it may, if justice requires it, permit the party excepting to withdraw his exception, and to deny the facts alleged in the challenge; if the exception is allowed, the court may, in like manner, permit an amendment of the challenge.

G. S. ch. 116, § 7.

SEC. 6836. **Denial of challenge.**—If the challenge is denied, the denial may, in like manner, be oral, and shall be entered upon the minutes of the court, and the court shall proceed to try the question of fact.

G. S. ch. 116, § 8.

SEC. 6837. **Evidence on trial of.**—Upon the trial of the challenge, the officers, whether judicial or ministerial, whose irregularity is complained of, as well as any other persons, may be examined to prove or disprove the facts alleged as the ground of the challenge.

G. S. ch. 116, § 9. 13 M. 341.

CHALLENGE TO INDIVIDUAL JUROR.

SEC. 6838. **Defined.**—A challenge to an individual juror is either:

First. Peremptory; or,

Second. For cause.

G. S. ch. 116, § 11.

SEC. 6839. **Defendant to be informed.**—Before a juror is called, the defendant shall be informed by the court, or under its direction, that if he intends to challenge an individual juror, he shall do so when the juror appears, and before he is sworn.

G. S. ch. 116, § 10. 25 M. 33.

SEC. 6840. **When to be taken.**—It shall be taken when the juror appears, and before he is sworn; but the court may, for good cause, permit it to be taken after the juror is sworn, and before the jury is completed.

G. S. ch. 116, § 12. 1 M. 347; 4 M. 438.

SEC. 6841. **Peremptory challenge.**—A peremptory challenge can be taken either by the state or by the defendant, and may be oral. It is an objection to a juror for which no reason need be given, but upon which the court shall exclude him.

G. S. ch. 116, § 13, as amended 1868, ch. 86. Amendment struck out "by the defendant only" and inserted "by the state or by the defendant." 25 M. 34.

SEC. 6842. **Same—Number allowed.**—If the offence charged is punishable with death, or with imprisonment in the state prison for life, the state is entitled to seven peremptory challenges, and the defendant to twenty peremptory challenges. On a trial for any other offence, the state is entitled to two peremptory challenges, and the defendant to five peremptory challenges.

G. S. ch. 116, § 14, as amended 1868, ch. 86, § 2. Amendment inserted provision giving the state the seven and two peremptory challenges.

SEC. 6843. **Challenge for cause.**—A challenge for cause may be taken either by the state or by the defendant.

G. S. ch. 116, § 15.

SEC. 6844. **Causes named.**—It is an objection to a particular juror, and is either:

First. General, that the juror is disqualified from serving in any case; or,

Second. Particular, that he is disqualified from serving in the case on trial.

G. S. ch. 116, § 16. 24 M. 93.

SEC. 6845. **General causes defined.**—General causes of challenge are:

First. A conviction for a felony.

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Second. A want of any of the qualifications prescribed by the laws to render a person a competent juror.

Third. Unsoundness of mind, or such defect in the faculties of the mind, or organs of the body, as renders him incapable of performing the duties of a juror.

G. S. ch. 116, § 17. 26 M. 503.

SEC. 6846. **Particular causes defined.**—Particular causes of challenge are of two kinds:

First. For such a bias, as, when the existence of the facts is ascertained, in judgment of law disqualifies the juror, and which is known in this chapter as implied bias;

Second. For the existence of a state of mind on the part of the juror, in reference to the case or to either party, which satisfies the triers, in the exercise of a sound discretion, that he cannot try the issue impartially and without prejudice to the substantial rights of the party challenging, and which is known in this statute as actual bias.

G. S. ch. 116, § 18.

SEC. 6847. **Implied bias.**—A challenge for implied bias may be taken for all or any of the following causes, and for no other.

19 M. 484.

First. The consanguinity or affinity, within the ninth degree, to the person alleged to be injured by the offence charged, or to the person on whose complaint the prosecution was instituted, or to the defendant,* or to any one of the attorneys, either for the prosecution or for the defence.

20 M. 313.

Second. Standing in relation of guardian and ward, attorney and client, master and servant, landlord and tenant, or being a member of the family of the defendant, or of the person alleged to be injured by the offence, or on whose complaint the prosecution was instituted, or in his employment on wages.

Third. Being a party adverse to the defendant in a civil action, or having complained against, or been accused by him, in a criminal prosecution.

Fourth. Having served on the grand-jury which found the indictment, or on a coroner's jury which inquired into the death of the person whose death is the subject of indictment.

Fifth. Having served on a trial jury, which has tried another person for the offence charged in the indictment.

Sixth. Having been one of a jury formerly sworn to try the same indictment, and whose verdict was set aside, or which was discharged without a verdict, after the cause was submitted to it.

18 M. 82.

Seventh. Having served as a juror in a civil action, brought against the defendant for the act charged as an offence.

Eighth. If the offence charged is punishable with death, the entertaining of such conscientious opinions, as would preclude his finding the defendant guilty, in which case he shall neither be permitted nor compelled to serve as a juror.

G. S. ch. 116, § 19, as amended 1878, ch. 24. Amendment inserted "or to the person," and matter below * in first subdivision. 26 M. 502.

SEC. 6848. **Actual bias.**—A challenge for actual bias may be taken for the cause mentioned in the second subdivision of section eighteen, and for no other cause.

G. S. ch. 116, § 20.

SEC. 6849. **Exemption from jury duty not a cause.**— An exemption from service on a jury is not a cause of challenge, but the privilege of the person exempted.

G. S. ch. 116, § 21.

SEC. 6850. **How challenge to be stated.**— In a challenge for implied bias, one or more of the causes stated in section nineteen shall be alleged; in a challenge for actual bias, the cause stated in the second subdivision of section eighteen shall be alleged; in either case, the challenge may be oral, but shall be entered upon the minutes of the court.

G. S. ch. 116, § 22.

SEC. 6851. **Adverse party to except.**— The adverse party may except to the challenge in the same manner as to a challenge to a panel, and the same proceedings shall be had thereon as prescribed in sections five, six and seven, except that if the challenge is sustained, the juror shall be excluded. The adverse party may also orally deny the facts alleged as the ground of challenge.

G. S. ch. 116, § 23, as amended 1881, ch. 9. Approved March 3d. Amendment struck out "except that if the exception is allowed" and inserted "except that if the challenge is sustained."

SEC. 6852. **When cause is non-citizenship.**— In any action or proceeding, when either party challenges a juror on the ground that he is not a citizen of the United States, the sworn testimony of the juror so challenged, or a duly authenticated copy of his certificate of naturalization, offered in evidence, shall be prima facie evidence of such person's qualification in such respect; and the burden of proving such alleged disqualification shall be incumbent upon the party to the action or proceeding interposing the challenge.

1889, ch. 49: "An act relating to the challenging of [grand jurors." Approved April 24, 1889.

TRIAL OF CHALLENGE.

SEC. 6853. **Manner of.**— If the facts are denied, the challenge shall be tried as follows:

First. For implied bias, by the court;

Second. For actual bias, by triers, unless, in cases not capital, the parties consent to a trial by the court.

G. S. ch. 116, § 24. 6 M. 319; 34 M. 432.

SEC. 6854. **Triers.**— The triers shall be three impartial persons, not on the jury panel, appointed by the court. All challenges for actual bias shall be tried by the triers thus appointed, a majority of whom may decide.

G. S. ch. 116, § 25.

SEC. 6855. **Triers to be sworn.**— The triers shall be sworn generally to inquire whether or not the several persons who may be challenged, and in respect to whom the challenges are given to them in charge, are true, and to decide the same according to evidence.

G. S. ch. 116, § 26. 12 M. 538.

SEC. 6856. **Juror examined.**— Upon the trial of a challenge to an individual juror, the juror challenged may be examined as a witness, to prove or disprove the challenge, and is bound to answer every question pertinent to the inquiry therein.

G. S. ch. 116, § 27.

SEC. 6857. **Other evidence.**— Other witnesses may also be examined on either side; and the rules of evidence applicable to the trial of other issues shall govern the admission or exclusion of testimony on the trial of the challenge.

G. S. ch. 116, § 28. 41 N. W. 495.

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SEC. 6858. **Court determine implied bias.**— On the trial of a challenge for implied bias, the court shall determine the law and the fact, and either allow or disallow the challenge, and direct an entry accordingly upon the minutes.

G. S. ch. 116, § 29.

SEC. 6859. **Instructions to triers.**— On the trial of a challenge for actual bias, when the evidence is concluded, the court shall instruct the triers that it is their duty to find the challenge true, if the evidence establishes the existence of a state of mind on the part of the juror in reference to the case, or to either party, which satisfies them, in the exercise of a sound discretion, that he cannot try the issue impartially and without prejudice to the substantial rights of the party challenging; and that, if otherwise, they shall find the challenge not true. The court can give them no other instruction.

G. S. ch. 116, § 30.

SEC. 6860. **Decision of triers.**— The triers shall thereupon find the challenge either true or not true, and their decision is final. If they find it true, the juror shall be excluded.

G. S. ch. 116, § 31. 4 M. 438; 26 M. 185.