
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1976 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, AUMENT, BAKER, BLOOM, BOYD, CLYMER,
DENLINGER, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, GROVE, HESS,
HICKERNELL, KAMPF, KAUFFMAN, LAWRENCE, METCALFE, SAYLOR,
SCHRODER, STERN, TALLMAN AND VULAKOVICH, NOVEMBER 10, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for venue in
3 personal injury actions against corporations and similar
4 entities.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 5101.2. Venue in personal injury actions against corporations
10 and similar entities.

11 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in section 5101.1
12 (relating to venue in medical professional liability actions)
13 and notwithstanding any law or rule to the contrary, a civil
14 action or proceeding against a corporation or similar entity to
15 recover damages for death or injury to a person may be brought
16 in, and only in, one of the following:

17 (1) The county where the plaintiff resides.

18 (2) The county where the cause of action arose.

1 (3) The county where the registered office or principal
2 place of business of the corporation or similar entity is
3 located.

4 (b) Multiple corporate defendants.--Actions to enforce joint
5 or joint and several liability against two or more corporations
6 or similar entities, which otherwise must be brought separately
7 in multiple counties as a result of this section, shall be
8 brought in the county where the plaintiff resides or the county
9 where the cause of action arose. The court, for good cause, may
10 transfer the action to a county where it might have been brought
11 against one or more of the defendants under this section.

12 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
13 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
14 subsection:

15 "Corporation or similar entity." Any public, quasi-public or
16 private corporation, insurance association or exchange, joint
17 stock company or association, limited liability company,
18 professional association, business trust or any other
19 association which is regarded as an entity distinct from the
20 members composing the association, but does not include the
21 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a political subdivision, municipal
22 or other local authority, a partnership or an unincorporated
23 association.

24 "County where the cause of action arose." The county where
25 the act, omission, impact, trauma or other contact alleged as
26 the factual cause of the injury or death occurred.

27 "Good cause." A finding that the convenience of the parties
28 and witnesses and the efficiency and costs of litigation clearly
29 weigh in favor of a transfer.

30 Section 2. This act shall apply to actions initiated on or

1 after the effective date of this section.

2 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.