

## 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, VULAKOVICH, REICHLEY, CREIGHTON AND  
BEAR, NOVEMBER 10, 2011

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
DECEMBER 7, 2011

## AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for  
3 original jurisdiction and venue in courts of common pleas;  
4 and providing for venue in personal injury actions against  
5 corporations and similar entities.

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

8 Section 1. Section 931(c) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania  
9 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

10 § 931. Original jurisdiction and venue.

11 \* \* \*

12 (c) Venue and process.--Except as provided by [section]  
13 sections 5101.1 (relating to venue in medical professional  
14 liability actions) and 5101.2 (relating to venue in personal  
15 injury actions against corporations and similar entities) and  
16 Subchapter B of Chapter 85 (relating to actions against  
17 Commonwealth parties), the venue of a court of common pleas

1 concerning matters over which jurisdiction is conferred by this  
2 section shall be as prescribed by general rule. The process of  
3 the court shall extend beyond the territorial limits of the  
4 judicial district to the extent prescribed by general rule.  
5 Except as otherwise prescribed by general rule, in a proceeding  
6 to enforce an order of a government agency the process of the  
7 court shall extend throughout this Commonwealth.

8 Section 2. Title 42 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 is domiciled.

18 (2) The county where all or a predominant part of the  
19 cause of action arose.

20 (3) The county where the principal place of business of  
21 the corporation or similar entity is located.

22 (b) Multiple corporate defendants.--Actions to enforce joint  
23 or joint and several liability against two or more corporations  
24 or similar entities, which otherwise must be brought separately  
25 in multiple counties as a result of this section, shall be  
26 brought in the county where the plaintiff is domiciled or the  
27 county where ALL OR A PREDOMINANT PART OF the cause of action  
28 arose. The court, for good cause, may transfer the action to a  
29 county where it might have been brought against one or more of  
30 the defendants under this section.



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

4 "Corporation or similar entity." Any public, quasi-public or  
5 private corporation, insurance association or exchange, joint  
6 stock company or association, limited liability company,  
7 professional association, business trust or any other  
8 association which is regarded as an entity distinct from the  
9 members composing the association, but does not include the  
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a political subdivision, municipal  
11 or other local authority, a partnership or an unincorporated  
12 association.

13 "County where all or a predominant part of the cause of  
14 action arose." The county where the act, omission, impact,  
15 trauma or other contact alleged as the factual cause of the  
16 injury or death occurred.

17 "Good cause." A finding that the convenience of the parties  
18 and witnesses and the efficiency and costs of litigation clearly  
19 weigh in favor of a transfer.

20 Section 3. This act shall apply to actions initiated on or  
21 after the effective date of this section.

22 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.