

Committee on Commerce and Tourism

HB 917 — Jurisdiction of the Courts

by Rep. Bileca and others (SB 486 by Senators Diaz de la Portilla and Lynn)

This bill amends Florida's long arm statute by including language that extends the court's jurisdiction to individuals entering into a contract that complies with Florida's forum-selection statute. The bill also expands the court's jurisdiction to hear cases concerning a commercial dispute that has arisen from the parties' contract where Florida law is designated as governing. Such provisions would apply to contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2012.

Additionally, the term "foreign judgment" as found in the Florida Enforcement of Foreign Judgment Act is amended to apply to any judgment, decree, or order of a court which is entitled to full faith and credit in this state. The effect of this removal would allow for the recognition of judgments, orders, and decrees issued from courts located in U.S. territories.

Lastly, provisions from the Florida International Commercial Arbitration Act are amended to correct cross-references in order to conform to the UNCITRAL Model Law on Commercial Arbitration.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2012.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 117-0