SENATE BILL NO. 213

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHAEFER.

Read 1st time February 7, 2011, and ordered printed.

LOOK OOT

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

0439S.02I

AN ACT

To repeal sections 475.060 and 475.061, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof twenty-six new sections relating to guardianship.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 475.060 and 475.061, RSMo, are repealed and twenty-

- 2 six new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 475.060, 475.061,
- 3 475.501, 475.502, 475.503, 475.504, 475.505, 475.506, 475.521, 475.522, 475.523,
- 4 475.524, 475.525, 475.526, 475.527, 475.528, 475.529, 475.531, 475.532, 475.541,
- 5 475.542, 475.543, 475.544, 475.551, 475.552, and 475.555, to read as follows:
 - 475.060. 1. Any person may file a petition for the appointment of himself
- or herself or some other qualified person as guardian of a minor [or guardian
- 3 of an incapacitated person]. Such petition shall state:
- 4 (1) The name, age, domicile, actual place of residence and post office
- 5 address of the minor [or incapacitated person] if known and if any of these facts
- 6 is unknown, the efforts made to ascertain that fact;
- 7 (2) The estimated value of [his] the minor's real and personal property,
- 8 and the location and value of any real property owned by the minor
- 9 outside of this state;
- 10 (3) If the minor [or incapacitated person] has no domicile or place of
- 11 residence in this state, the county in which the property or major part thereof of
- 12 the minor [or incapacitated person] is located;
- 13 (4) The name and address of the parents of the minor [or incapacitated
- 14 person] and whether they are living or dead;
- 15 (5) The name and address of the spouse, and the names, ages and
- 16 addresses of all living children of the minor [or incapacitated person];

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

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- 17 (6) The name and address of the person having custody of the person of the minor [or incapacitated person];
- 19 (7) The name and address of any guardian of the person or conservator 20 of the estate of the minor [or incapacitated person] appointed in this or any other 21 state;
- 22 (8) If appointment is sought for a natural person, other than the public 23 administrator, the names and addresses of wards and disabled persons for whom 24 such person is already guardian or conservator;
- 25 (9) [In the case of an incapacitated person, the fact that the person for whom guardianship is sought is unable by reason of some specified physical or 2627 mental condition to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions to such an extent that the person lacks capacity to meet essential requirements 28for food, clothing, shelter, safety or other care such that serious physical injury, 29illness or disease is likely to occur] The name and address of the trustees 30 and the purpose of any trust of which the minor is a qualified 31 32 beneficiary;
 - (10) The reasons why the appointment of a guardian is sought;
- 34 (11) A petition for the appointment of a guardian of a minor may be filed 35 for the sole and specific purpose of school registration or medical insurance 36 coverage. Such a petition shall clearly set out this limited request and shall not 37 be combined with a petition for conservatorship.
- 2. Any person may file a petition for the appointment of himself 39 or herself or some other qualified person as guardian of an 40 incapacitated person. Such petition shall state:
 - (1) The name, age, domicile, actual place of residence and post office address of the alleged incapacitated person, if known, and if any of these facts is unknown, the efforts made to ascertain that fact; in addition, for the period of three years before the filing of the petition, the most recent addresses, up to three, at which the alleged incapacitated person lived prior to the most recent address. In the case of a petition filed by a public official in his or her official capacity, the information required by this subdivision need only be supplied to the extent it is reasonably available to the petitioner; in the case of any other petition, if any information required by this subdivision is not available, the petition shall state the efforts made to obtain such information;

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- 53 (2) The estimated value of the alleged incapacitated person's real 54 and personal property, and the location and value of any real property 55 owned by the alleged incapacitated person outside of this state;
- 56 (3) If the alleged incapacitated person has no domicile or place 57 of residence in this state, the county in which the property or major 58 part thereof of the alleged incapacitated person is located;
 - (4) The name and address of the parents of the alleged incapacitated person and whether they are living or dead;
 - (5) The name and address of the spouse, the names, ages, and addresses of all living children of the alleged incapacitated person, the names and addresses of the alleged incapacitated person's closest known relatives, and the names and relationship, if known, of any adults living with the alleged incapacitated person; if no spouse, adult child, or parent is listed, the names and addresses of the siblings and children of deceased siblings of the alleged incapacitated person; the name and address of any agent appointed by the alleged incapacitated person in any durable power of attorney, and of the presently acting trustees of any trust of which the alleged incapacitated person is the grantor or is a qualified beneficiary or is or was the trustee or cotrustee and the purpose of the power of attorney or trust;
 - (6) The name and address of the person having custody of the person of the alleged incapacitated person;
 - (7) The name and address of any guardian of the person or conservator of the estate of the alleged incapacitated person appointed in this or any other state;
- 78 (8) If appointment is sought for a natural person, other than the 79 public administrator, the names and addresses of wards and disabled 80 persons for whom such person is already guardian or conservator;
 - (9) The fact that the person for whom guardianship is sought is unable by reason of some specified physical or mental condition to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions to such an extent that the person lacks capacity to meet essential requirements for food, clothing, shelter, safety, or other care such that serious physical injury, illness, or disease is likely to occur;
 - (10) The reasons why the appointment of a guardian is sought.
 - 475.061. 1. Any person may file a petition in the probate division of the circuit court of the county of proper venue for the appointment of himself or some

other qualified person as conservator of the estate of a minor or disabled person. The petition shall contain the same allegations as are set forth in subdivisions (1), (8), and (10) of subsection 2 of section 475.060 with respect to the appointment of a guardian for an incapacitated person and, in addition thereto, an allegation that the respondent is unable by reason of some specific physical or mental condition to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions to such an extent that the respondent lacks ability to manage his financial resources or that the respondent is under the age of

2. A petition for appointment of a conservator or limited conservator of the estate may be combined with a petition for appointment of a guardian or limited guardian of the person. In such a combined petition allegations need not

15 be repeated.

eighteen years.

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16 ARTICLE 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

475.501. Sections 475.501 to 475.555 may be cited as the "Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act".

475.502. Notwithstanding the definitions in section 475.010, when 2 used in sections 475.501 to 475.555, the following terms mean:

- (1) "Adult", an individual who has attained eighteen years of age;
- 4 (2) "Conservator", a person appointed by the court to administer 5 the property of an adult, including a person appointed under this 6 chapter;
- 7 (3) "Guardian", a person appointed by the court to make 8 decisions regarding the person of an adult, including a person 9 appointed under this chapter;
 - (4) "Guardianship order", an order appointing a guardian;
- 11 (5) "Guardianship proceeding", a proceeding in which an order 12 for the appointment of a guardian is sought or has been issued;
- 13 (6) "Incapacitated person", an adult for whom a guardian has 14 been appointed;
- 15 (7) "Party", the respondent, petitioner, guardian, conservator, or 16 any other person allowed by the court to participate in a guardianship 17 or protective proceeding;
- 18 (8) "Person", except in the term "incapacitated person" or 19 "protected person", an individual, corporation, business trust, estate,

- 20 trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture,
- 21 public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency,
- 22 or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity;
- 23 (9) "Protected person", an adult for whom a protective order has 24 been issued:
- 25 (10) "Protective order", an order appointing a conservator or 26 other order related to management of an adult's property;
- 27 (11) "Protective proceeding", a judicial proceeding in which a 28 protective order is sought or has been issued;
- (12) "Record", information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form;
- 32 (13) "Respondent", an adult for whom a protective order or the 33 appointment of a guardian is sought;
- 34 (14) "State", a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, 35 Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, a federally recognized 36 Indian tribe, or any territory or insular possession subject to the 37 jurisdiction of the United States.
- 475.503. A court of this state may treat a foreign country as if it were a state for the purpose of applying this article and articles 2, 3, 3 and 5.
- 475.504. 1. A court of this state may communicate with a court in another state concerning a proceeding arising under sections 475.501 to 475.555. The court may allow the parties to participate in the communication. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 of this section, the court shall make a record of the communication. The record may be limited to the fact that the communication occurred.
- 2. Courts may communicate concerning schedules, calendars, court records, and other administrative matters without making a record.
- 475.505. 1. In a guardianship or protective proceeding in this state, a court of this state may request the appropriate court of another state to:
 - (1) Hold an evidentiary hearing;

- 5 (2) Order a person in that state to produce evidence or give 6 testimony pursuant to procedures of that state;
- 7 (3) Order that an evaluation or assessment be made of the

respondent;

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- 9 (4) Order any appropriate investigation of a person involved in 10 a proceeding;
 - (5) Forward to the court of this state a certified copy of the transcript or other record of a hearing under subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of this section or any other proceeding, any evidence otherwise produced under subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of this section, and any evaluation or assessment prepared in compliance with an order under subdivisions (3) and (4) of subsection 1 of this section;
- (6) Issue any order necessary to assure the appearance in the 18 proceeding of a person whose presence is necessary for the court to 19 make a determination, including the respondent or the incapacitated 20 or protected person;
 - (7) Issue an order authorizing the release of medical, financial, criminal, or other relevant information in that state, including protected health information as defined in 45 CFR 160.103, as amended.
- 2. If a court of another state in which a guardianship or 2425protective proceeding is pending requests assistance of the kind 26provided in subsection 1 of this section, a court of this state has jurisdiction for the limited purpose of granting the request or making reasonable efforts to comply with the request.
 - 475.506. 1. In a guardianship or protective proceeding, in addition to other procedures that may be available, testimony of a witness who is located in another state may be offered by deposition or other means allowable in this state for testimony taken in another state. The court on its own motion may order that the testimony of a witness be taken in another state and may prescribe the manner in which and the terms upon which the testimony is to be taken.
- 8 2. In a guardianship or protective proceeding, a court in this state may permit a witness located in another state to be deposed or to testify by telephone or audiovisual or other electronic means. A court of this state shall cooperate with court of the other state in designating 11 an appropriate location for the deposition or testimony. 12
- 3. Documentary evidence transmitted from another state to a court of this state by technological means that do not produce an 14 original writing may not be excluded from evidence on an objection 15 based on the best evidence rule.

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17 **ARTICLE 2**

475.521. 1. In this article, the following terms mean:

2 (1) "Emergency", a circumstance that likely will result in substantial harm to a respondent's health, safety, or welfare, and for 3

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which the appointment of a guardian is necessary because no other

person has authority and is willing to act on the respondent's behalf; 5

(2) "Home state", the state in which the respondent was 6 physically present, including any period of temporary absence, for at least six consecutive months immediately before the filing of a petition for a protective order or the appointment of a guardian; or if none, the state in which the respondent was physically present, including any 10

period of temporary absence, for at least six consecutive months ending 11

12 within the six months prior to the filing of the petition;

13 (3) "Significant-connection state", a state, other than the home state, with which a respondent has a significant connection other than 14 mere physical presence and in which substantial evidence concerning 15 16 the respondent is available.

2. In determining under section 475.523 and subsection 5 of 18 section 475.531 whether a respondent has a significant connection with a particular state, the court shall consider:

(1) The location of the respondent's family and other persons required to be notified of the guardianship or protective proceeding;

22(2) The length of time the respondent at any time was physically 23 present in the state and the duration of any absence;

(3) The location of the respondent's property; and

25 (4) The extent to which the respondent has ties to the state such as voting registration, state or local tax return filing, vehicle 26registration, driver's license, social relationship, and receipt of 27 28 services.

475.522. This article provides the exclusive jurisdictional basis for a court of this state to appoint a guardian or issue a protective order for an adult.

475.523. A court of this state has jurisdiction to appoint a guardian or issue a protective order for a respondent if:

3 (1) This state is the respondent's home state;

- 4 (2) On the date a petition is filed, this state is a significant-5 connection state and:
- 6 (a) The respondent does not have a home state or a court of the 7 respondent's home state has declined to exercise jurisdiction because 8 this state is a more appropriate forum; or
- 9 (b) The respondent has a home state, a petition for an 10 appointment or order is not pending in a court of that state or another 11 significant-connection state, and, before the court makes the 12 appointment or issues the order:
- a. A petition for an appointment or order is not filed in the respondent's home state;
- b. An objection to the court's jurisdiction is not filed by a person
 required to be notified of the proceeding; and
- 17 c. The court in this state concludes that it is an appropriate 18 forum under the factors set forth in section 475.526;
- 19 (3) This state does not have jurisdiction under either 20 subdivisions (1) or (2) of this section, the respondent's home state and 21 all significant-connection states have declined to exercise jurisdiction 22 because this state is the more appropriate forum, and jurisdiction in 23 this state is consistent with the constitutions of this state and the 24 United States; or
- 25 (4) The requirements for special jurisdiction under section 26 475.524 are met.
 - 475.524. 1. A court of this state lacking jurisdiction under section 475.523 has special jurisdiction to do any of the following:
- 3 (1) Appoint a guardian in an emergency for a term not exceeding 4 ninety days for a respondent who is physically present in this state;
- 5 (2) Issue a protective order with respect to real or tangible 6 personal property located in this state;
- 7 (3) Appoint a guardian or conservator for an incapacitated or 8 protected person for whom a provisional order to transfer the 9 proceeding from another state has been issued under procedures 10 similar to section 475.531.
- 2. If a petition for the appointment of a guardian in an emergency is brought in this state and this state was not the respondent's home state on the date the petition was filed, the court shall dismiss the proceeding at the request of the court of the home

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15 state, if any, whether dismissal is requested before or after the 16 emergency appointment.

475.525. Except as otherwise provided in section 475.524, a court that has appointed a guardian or issued a protective order consistent with sections 475.501 to 475.555 has exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the proceeding until it is terminated by the court or the appointment or order expires by its own terms.

475.526. 1. A court of this state having jurisdiction under section
2 475.523 to appoint a guardian or issue a protective order may decline
3 to exercise its jurisdiction if it determines at any time that a court of
4 another state is a more appropriate forum.

2. If a court of this state declines to exercise its jurisdiction under subsection 1 of this section, it shall either dismiss or stay the proceeding. The court may impose any condition the court considers just and proper, including the condition that a petition for the appointment of a guardian or protective order be promptly filed in another state.

3. In determining whether it is an appropriate forum, the court shall consider all relevant factors, including:

(1) Any expressed preference of the respondent;

14 (2) Whether abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the respondent has 15 occurred or is likely to occur and which state could best protect the 16 respondent from the abuse, neglect, or exploitation;

17 (3) The length of time the respondent was physically present in 18 or was a legal resident of this or another state;

(4) The distance of the respondent from the court in each state;

(5) The financial circumstances of the respondent's estate;

(6) The nature and location of the evidence;

22 (7) The ability of the court in each state to decide the issue 23 expeditiously and the procedures necessary to present evidence;

24 (8) The familiarity of the court of each state with the facts and 25 issues in the proceeding; and

26 (9) If an appointment were made, the court's ability to monitor 27 the conduct of the guardian or conservator.

475.527. 1. If at any time a court of this state determines that it acquired jurisdiction to appoint a guardian or issue a protective order because of unjustifiable conduct, the court may:

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- 4 (1) Decline to exercise jurisdiction;
- 5 (2) Exercise jurisdiction for the limited purpose of fashioning an appropriate remedy to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the respondent or the protection of the respondent's property or prevent a repetition of the unjustifiable conduct, including staying the proceeding until a petition for the appointment of a guardian or issuance of a protective order is filed in a court of another state having 10 jurisdiction; or 11
 - (3) Continue to exercise jurisdiction after considering:
- 13 (a) The extent to which the respondent and all persons required 14to be notified of the proceedings have acquiesced in the exercise of the court's jurisdiction; 15
- 16 (b) Whether it is a more appropriate forum than the court of any 17other state under the factors set forth in subsection 3 of section 475.526; 18 and
- 19 (c) Whether the court of any other state would have jurisdiction under factual circumstances in substantial conformity with the 20 21jurisdictional standards of section 475.523.
- 2. If a court of this state determines that it acquired jurisdiction to appoint a guardian or issue a protective order because a party 24seeking to invoke its jurisdiction engaged in unjustifiable conduct, it may assess against that party necessary and reasonable expenses, 25 26 including attorney's fees, investigative fees, court costs, communication expenses, witness fees and expenses, and travel expenses. The court 27may not assess fees, costs, or expenses of any kind against this state or 28a governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of this state 29unless authorized by law other than sections 475.501 to 475.555.
- 475.528. If a petition for the appointment of a guardian or 2 issuance of a protective order is brought in this state and this state was not the respondent's home state on the date the petition was filed, in 4 addition to complying with the notice requirements of this state, notice of the petition shall be given to those persons who would be entitled to notice of the petition if a proceeding were brought in the respondent's home state. The notice shall be given in the same manner as notice is 8 required to be given in this state.
- 475.529. Except for a petition for the appointment of a guardian 2 in an emergency or issuance of a protective order limited to property

3 located in this state as provided in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection

1 of section 475.524, if a petition for the appointment of a guardian or

5 issuance of a protective order is filed in this and in another state and

6 neither petition has been dismissed or withdrawn, the following rules

7 apply:

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- 8 (1) If the court in this state has jurisdiction under section 9 475.523, it may proceed with the case unless a court in another state 10 acquires jurisdiction under provisions similar to section 475.523 before 11 the appointment or issuance of the order.
- (2) If the court in this state does not have jurisdiction under section 475.523, whether at the time the petition is filed or at any time before the appointment or issuance of the order, the court shall stay the proceeding and communicate with the court in the other state. If the court in the other state has jurisdiction, the court in this state shall dismiss the petition unless the court in the other state determines that the court in this state is a more appropriate forum.

19 ARTICLE 3

TRANSFER OF GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP

- 475.531. 1. A guardian or conservator appointed in this state 2 may petition the court to transfer the guardianship or conservatorship 3 to another state.
- 2. Notice of a petition under subsection 1 of this section shall be given to those persons that would be entitled to notice of a petition in this state for the appointment of a guardian or conservator.
- 3. On the court's own motion or on request of the guardian or conservator, the incapacitated or protected person, or other person required to be notified of the petition, the court shall hold a hearing on a petition filed pursuant to subsection 1 of this section.
- 4. The court shall issue an order provisionally granting a petition to transfer a guardianship and shall direct the guardian to petition for guardianship in the other state if the court is satisfied that the guardianship will be accepted by the court in the other state and the court finds that:
- 16 (1) The incapacitated person is physically present in or is 17 reasonably expected to move permanently to the other state;
- 18 (2) An objection to the transfer has not been made or, if an 19 objection has been made, the objector has not established that the

20 transfer would be contrary to the interests of the incapacitated person;

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- 22 (3) Plans for care and services for the incapacitated person in 23 the other state are reasonable and sufficient.
- 24 5. The court shall issue a provisional order granting a petition to transfer a conservatorship and shall direct the conservator to 25 petition for conservatorship in the other state if the court is satisfied 26 that the conservatorship will be accepted by the court of the other state 2728 and the court finds that:
- 29 (1) The protected person is physically present in or is reasonably expected to move permanently to the other state, or the protected 30 person has a significant connection to the other state considering the 31 32 factors set forth in subsection 2 of section 475.521;
- 33 (2) An objection to the transfer has not been made or, if an objection has been made, the objector has not established that the transfer would be contrary to the interests of the protected person; and
- (3) Adequate arrangements will be made for management of the 36 37 protected person's property.
- 38 6. The court shall issue a final order confirming the transfer and 39 terminating the guardianship or conservatorship upon its receipt of:
- 40 (1) A provisional order accepting the proceeding from the court to which the proceeding is to be transferred which is issued under 41 42 provisions similar to section 475.532; and
- 43 (2) The documents required to terminate a guardianship or conservatorship in this state. 44
- 475.532. 1. To confirm transfer of a guardianship conservatorship transferred to this state under provisions similar to those in section 475.531, the guardian or conservator shall petition the court in this state to accept the guardianship or conservatorship. The petition shall include a certified copy of the other state's provisional order of transfer. 6
- 7 2. Notice of a petition under subsection 1 of this section shall be given to those persons that would be entitled to notice if the petition were a petition for the appointment of a guardian or issuance of a protective order in both the transferring state and this state. The notice shall be given in the same manner as notice is required to be 11 given in this state.

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13 3. On the court's own motion or on request of the guardian or 14 conservator, the incapacitated or protected person, or other person required to be notified of the proceeding, the court shall hold a hearing 15 on a petition filed pursuant to subsection 1 of this section. 16

- 4. The court shall issue an order provisionally granting a 17 petition filed under subsection 1 of this section unless: 18
- 19 (1) An objection is made and the objector establishes that transfer of the proceeding would be contrary to the interests of the 20 incapacitated or protected person; or 21
- 22 (2) The guardian or conservator is ineligible for appointment in this state. 23
 - 5. The court shall issue a final order accepting the proceeding and appointing the guardian or conservator as guardian or conservator in this state upon its receipt from the court from which the proceeding is being transferred of a final order issued under provisions similar to section 475.531 transferring the proceeding to this state.
- 6. Not later than ninety days after issuance of a final order 29 30 accepting transfer of a guardianship or conservatorship, the court shall determine whether the guardianship or conservatorship needs to be modified to conform to the law of this state.
 - 7. In granting a petition under this section, the court shall recognize a guardianship or conservatorship order from the other state, including the determination of the incapacitated or protected person's incapacity and the appointment of the guardian or conservator.
 - 8. The denial by a court of this state of a petition to accept guardianship or conservatorship transferred from another state does not affect the ability of the guardian or conservator to seek appointment as guardian or conservator in this state under this chapter if the court has jurisdiction to make an appointment other than by reason of the provisional order of transfer.

43 ARTICLE 4

REGISTRATION AND RECOGNITION OF ORDERS FROM OTHER

STATES 45

475.541. If a guardian has been appointed in another state and a petition for the appointment of a guardian is not pending in this state, the guardian appointed in the other state, after giving notice to 4 the appointing court of an intent to register, may register the

5 guardianship order in this state by filing as a foreign judgment in a court, in any appropriate county of this state, certified copies of the order and letters of office.

475.542. If a conservator has been appointed in another state and 2 a petition for a protective order is not pending in this state, the conservator appointed in the other state, after giving notice to the 4 appointing court of an intent to register, may register the protective order in this state by filing as a foreign judgment in a court of this state, in any county in which property belonging to the protected person is located, certified copies of the order and letters of office and 8 of any bond.

475.543. 1. Upon registration of a guardianship or protective 2 order from another state, the guardian or conservator may exercise in this state all powers authorized in the order of appointment except as prohibited under the laws of this state, including maintaining actions and proceedings in this state and, if the guardian or conservator is not 6 a resident of this state, subject to any conditions imposed upon nonresident parties.

8 2. A court of this state may grant any relief available under sections 475.501 to 475.555 and other law of this state to enforce a 10 registered order.

475.544. Except where inconsistent with sections 475.541, 475.542, and 475.543, the laws of this state relating to the registration and recognition of the acts of a foreign guardian, curator, or conservator contained in sections 475.335 to 475.340 shall be applicable.

5 ARTICLE 5

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MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

475.551. In applying and construing this uniform 2 consideration shall be given to the need to promote uniformity of the 3 law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

475.552. Sections 475.501 to 475.555 modify, limit, and supersede 2 the federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7001, et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersede Section 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in Section 103(b) of 6 that act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7003(b).

475.555. 1. Sections 475.501 to 475.555 apply to guardianship and protective proceedings begun on or after August 28, 2011.

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- 3 2. Articles 1, 3, 4, and sections 475.551 and 475.552 apply to
- 4 proceedings begun before August 28, 2011, regardless of whether a
- 5 guardianship or protective order has been issued.

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