

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 7

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR EMERY.

Pre-filed December 1, 2018, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

0212S.01I

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 507.040, 507.050, 508.010, 508.012, and 537.762, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof nine new sections relating to civil procedure.

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

Section A. Sections 507.040, 507.050, 508.010, 508.012, and 537.762, RSMo, are repealed and nine new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 375.1800, 375.1803, 375.1806, 507.040, 507.050, 508.010, 508.012, 537.762, and 1, to read as follows:

**375.1800. 1. A domestic insurance company shall be deemed for all purposes, including venue, to reside in, and be a resident of, the county where its registered office is maintained.**

**2. A foreign insurance company shall be deemed for all purposes, including venue, to reside in, and be a resident of, the county where its registered office is maintained. A foreign insurance company that does not maintain a registered office in any county in Missouri shall be deemed to reside in, and be a resident of, Cole County.**

**375.1803. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in all actions in which there is any count against an insurer, whether in tort or contract, regarding the rights, benefits, or duties under an insurance contract or any action arising from an insurance contract, including but not limited to claims of bad faith, refusal to settle, claims under section 375.296, or claims under section 375.420, venue shall be in the county where the insurer resides, or if the insured was a resident of Missouri at the time the insurance contract was issued, the county of the insured's principal place of residence, as defined in**

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

10 section 508.010, at the time the insurance contract was issued. Venue  
11 shall be determined by this section even if the insured's rights or  
12 claims under the policy have been assigned or otherwise transferred to  
13 another party. However, intervention by an insurer in an action  
14 pursuant to section 537.065 shall not affect the venue of the action. The  
15 provisions of this section shall not apply to any action against an  
16 insurer relating to uninsured motorist coverage or underinsured  
17 motorist coverage, including any action to enforce such coverage.

375.1806. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
2 in all actions against an insurer relating to uninsured motorist  
3 coverage or underinsured motorist coverage, including any action to  
4 enforce such coverage, venue as to that individual plaintiff shall be  
5 determined as follows:

6 (1) If the accident involving the uninsured or underinsured  
7 motor vehicle occurred in Missouri, then venue shall be in the county  
8 where the accident occurred;

9 (2) If the accident involving the uninsured or underinsured  
10 motor vehicle occurred outside the state of Missouri, then venue shall  
11 either be in:

12 (a) The county where the insurer resides; or

13 (b) If the insured's principal place of residence was in the state  
14 of Missouri on the date the insured was first injured by the accident  
15 involving an uninsured or underinsured motor vehicle, the county of  
16 the insured's principal place of residence on the date the insured was  
17 first injured by such accident.

507.040. 1. All persons may join in one action as plaintiffs if they assert  
2 any right to relief jointly, severally, or in the alternative in respect of or arising  
3 out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences  
4 and if any question of law or fact common to all of them will arise in the action.  
5 All persons may be joined in one action as defendants if there is asserted against  
6 them jointly, severally, or in the alternative, any right to relief in respect of or  
7 arising out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or  
8 occurrences and if any question of law or fact common to all of them will arise in  
9 the action. **Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,**  
10 **for any action in which a plaintiff was injured outside the state of**  
11 **Missouri, claims arising out of separate purchases of the same product**  
12 **or service, or separate incidents involving the same product or services**

13 **shall not satisfy this section.** A plaintiff or defendant need not be interested  
14 in obtaining or defending against all the relief demanded. Judgment may be  
15 given for one or more of the plaintiffs according to their respective rights to relief,  
16 and against one or more defendants according to their respective liabilities.

17 **2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1 of this section,**  
18 **in any civil action in which there is a count alleging a tort, two or more**  
19 **plaintiffs may be joined in a single action only if each plaintiff could**  
20 **have separately filed an action in that venue, independently of the**  
21 **claims of any other plaintiff; except that, if two or more plaintiffs in a**  
22 **civil action in which there is a count alleging a tort could otherwise**  
23 **establish venue in adjoining counties, and if each such county has**  
24 **fewer than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, then the plaintiffs**  
25 **may be joined in a single action in one of the adjoining counties. In**  
26 **addition, a plaintiff having proper venue in a county having a**  
27 **population of seventy-five thousand or less inhabitants may join in**  
28 **another action currently pending in a proper venue of another county**  
29 **with a population of seventy-five thousand inhabitants or less. Two or**  
30 **more defendants may be joined in a single action only if:**

31 **(1) Personal jurisdiction is proper for each defendant,**  
32 **independently of the claims against any other defendant; and**

33 **(2) Each plaintiff can establish proper venue against each**  
34 **defendant, independently of the claims against any other defendant.**

35 **3. All parties for which proper personal jurisdiction and venue**  
36 **cannot be independently established shall be deemed**  
37 **misjoined. Misjoined parties may be joined only where at least one**  
38 **claim is properly pending in the court, and all parties to the action**  
39 **waive objection to the misjoinder. All other misjoined parties shall be**  
40 **subject to the provisions of section 507.050.**

41 **4. The court may make such orders as will prevent a party from being**  
42 **embarrassed, delayed, or put to expense by the inclusion of a party against whom**  
43 **he asserts no claim and who asserts no claim against him, and may order**  
44 **separate trials or make other orders to prevent delay or prejudice.**

507.050. 1. Misjoinder of parties is not ground for dismissal of an  
2 action. Parties may be dropped [or], added, **or severed** by order of the court on  
3 motion of any party or of its own initiative at any stage of the action and on such  
4 terms as are just. Any claim against a party may be severed and proceeded with

5 separately. **If a plaintiff or defendant is deemed misjoined pursuant to**  
6 **subsection 3 of section 507.040, all claims brought by that plaintiff or**  
7 **against that defendant shall be severed from the action and those**  
8 **claims shall be transferred to a county in which venue exists upon the**  
9 **motion of any party. If there is no county in Missouri in which venue**  
10 **exists, those claims shall be dismissed without prejudice.**

11 2. A motion to drop or add parties may be made at the same time as other  
12 motions provided for in section 509.290, and if so made, the provisions of section  
13 509.340 with reference to the consolidation of motions and waiver of objections  
14 shall also apply. If said motion is made at any other time, the hearing and  
15 determination thereof shall not delay the trial. Objections on account of  
16 misjoinder or nonjoinder of parties may also be raised by answer or reply.

508.010. 1. As used in this section, "principal place of residence" shall  
2 mean the county which is the main place where an individual resides in the state  
3 of Missouri. [There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the county of voter  
4 registration at the time of injury is the principal place of residence.] There shall  
5 be only one principal place of residence.

6 **(1) For an individual person, there shall be a rebuttable**  
7 **presumption that the county of voter registration at the time of injury**  
8 **is the principal place of residence.**

9 **(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, for an**  
10 **individual whose conduct at issue was alleged in at least one county to**  
11 **be in the course and scope of his or her employment with a**  
12 **corporation, the individual's principal place of residence for venue**  
13 **purposes shall be deemed to be the applicable corporation's principal**  
14 **place of residence.**

15 **(3) For a corporation, the county where the corporation has its**  
16 **registered agent is the principal place of residence.**

17 2. In all actions in which there is no count alleging a tort, venue shall be  
18 determined as follows:

19 (1) When the defendant is a resident of the state, either in the county  
20 within which the defendant resides, or in the county within which the plaintiff  
21 resides, and the defendant may be found;

22 (2) When there are several defendants, and they reside in different  
23 counties, the suit may be brought in any such county;

24 (3) When there are several defendants, some residents and others

25 nonresidents of the state, suit may be brought in any county in this state in  
26 which any defendant resides;

27 (4) When all the defendants are nonresidents of the state, suit may be  
28 brought in any county in this state, **provided there is personal jurisdiction**  
29 **over each defendant, independent of each other defendant.**

30 3. The term "tort" shall include claims based upon improper health care,  
31 under the provisions of chapter 538.

32 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in all actions in which  
33 there is any count alleging a tort and in which the plaintiff was first injured in  
34 the state of Missouri, venue shall be in the county where the plaintiff was first  
35 injured by the [wrongful] acts or [negligent] conduct alleged in the action.

36 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in all actions in which  
37 there is any count alleging a tort and in which the plaintiff was first injured  
38 outside the state of Missouri, venue **as to that individual plaintiff** shall be  
39 determined as follows:

40 (1) If the defendant is a corporation, then venue shall be in [any] **the**  
41 county where [a] **the** defendant [corporation's registered agent is located] **has**  
42 **its principal place of residence** or, if the plaintiff's principal place of  
43 residence was in the state of Missouri on the date the plaintiff was first injured,  
44 then venue may be in the county of the plaintiff's principal place of residence on  
45 the date the plaintiff was first injured;

46 (2) If the defendant is an individual, then venue shall be in [any] **the**  
47 county [of] **where** the [individual defendant's] **defendant has his or her**  
48 principal place of residence in the state of Missouri, **which for venue purposes**  
49 **shall be deemed to be that of his or her employer corporation if any**  
50 **count alleges conduct in the course and scope of his or her employment**  
51 **with that corporation**, or, if the plaintiff's principal place of residence was in  
52 the state of Missouri on the date the plaintiff was first injured, then venue **as to**  
53 **that individual plaintiff** may be in the county containing the plaintiff's  
54 principal place of residence on the date the plaintiff was first injured;

55 (3) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, if the  
56 plaintiff was first injured in a foreign country in connection with any railroad  
57 operations therein and any defendant is a:

58 (a) Corporation that, either directly or through its subsidiaries, wholly  
59 owns or operates the foreign railroad; or

60 (b) Wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation that, either directly or

61 through its subsidiaries, wholly owns or operates the foreign railroad;  
62 then venue shall exclusively be in the county where any such defendant  
63 corporation's registered agent is located, regardless of venue as to any other  
64 defendant or, if the plaintiff's principal place of residence was in the state of  
65 Missouri on the date the plaintiff was first injured, then venue may be in the  
66 county of the plaintiff's principal place of residence on the date the plaintiff was  
67 first injured.

68           6. Any action, in which any county shall be a plaintiff, may be commenced  
69 and prosecuted to final judgment in the county in which the defendant or  
70 defendants reside, or in the county suing and where the defendants, or one of  
71 them, may be found.

72           7. In all actions, process shall be issued by the court in which the action  
73 is filed and process may be served in any county within the state.

74           8. In any action for defamation or for invasion of privacy, the plaintiff  
75 shall be considered first injured in the county in which the defamation or  
76 invasion was first published.

77           9. In all actions, venue shall be determined as of the date the plaintiff was  
78 first injured.

79           10. All motions to dismiss or to transfer based upon a claim of improper  
80 venue shall be deemed granted if not denied within ninety days of filing of the  
81 motion unless such time period is waived in writing by all parties.

82           11. In a wrongful death action, the plaintiff shall be considered first  
83 injured where the decedent was first injured by the wrongful acts or negligent  
84 conduct alleged in the action. In any spouse's claim for loss of consortium, the  
85 plaintiff claiming consortium shall be considered first injured where the other  
86 spouse was first injured by the wrongful acts or negligent conduct alleged in the  
87 action.

88           12. The provisions of this section shall apply irrespective of whether the  
89 defendant is a for-profit or a not-for-profit entity.

90           13. In any civil action, if all parties agree in writing to a change of venue,  
91 the court shall transfer venue to the county within the state unanimously chosen  
92 by the parties. If any parties are added to the cause of action after the date of  
93 said transfer who do not consent to said transfer then the cause of action shall  
94 be transferred to such county in which venue is appropriate under this section,  
95 based upon the amended pleadings.

96           14. A plaintiff is considered first injured where the trauma or exposure

97 occurred rather than where symptoms are first manifested.

98 **15. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,**  
99 **in any civil action in which there is any count alleging a tort, each**  
100 **plaintiff shall establish that the court where the action is filed is a**  
101 **proper venue against each defendant, independent of the claims**  
102 **brought by any other plaintiff or against any other defendant. Venue**  
103 **for each plaintiff and each defendant cannot be established by joinder**  
104 **or intervention.**

105 **16. If the county where the plaintiff's claim is filed is not a**  
106 **proper venue, that plaintiff shall be transferred to a county where**  
107 **proper venue can be established. If no such county exists in the state**  
108 **of Missouri, the claim shall be dismissed without prejudice.**

109 **17. Denial of a motion to transfer venue pursuant to sections**  
110 **507.040, 507.050, or 508.010, if denied in error, requires reversal, and no**  
111 **finding of prejudice under Missouri supreme court rule 84.13(b) is**  
112 **required for reversal.**

113 **18. For the purposes of this section, a domestic insurance**  
114 **company shall be deemed to reside in, and be a resident of, the county**  
115 **where its registered office is maintained. A foreign insurance company**  
116 **shall be deemed to reside in, and be a resident of, the county where its**  
117 **registered office is maintained. If a foreign insurance company does**  
118 **not maintain a registered office in any county in Missouri, the foreign**  
119 **insurance company shall be deemed to reside in, and be a resident of,**  
120 **Cole County.**

508.012. At any time prior to the commencement of a trial, if a plaintiff  
2 or defendant, including a third-party plaintiff or defendant, is either added [or]  
3 **to, removed, or severed** from a petition filed in any court in the state of  
4 Missouri which would have, if originally added [or] **to, removed [to], or severed**  
5 **from** the initial petition, altered the determination of venue under section  
6 508.010, then the judge shall upon application of any party transfer the case to  
7 a proper forum [under section 476.410].

537.762. 1. A defendant whose liability is based solely on his status as  
2 a seller in the stream of commerce may be dismissed from a products liability  
3 claim as provided in this section.

4 2. This section shall apply to any products liability claim in which another  
5 defendant, including the manufacturer, is properly before the court and from

6 whom total recovery may be had for plaintiff's claim.

7           3. A defendant may move for dismissal under this section within the time  
8 for filing an answer or other responsive pleading unless permitted by the court  
9 at a later time for good cause shown. The motion shall be accompanied by an  
10 affidavit which shall be made under oath and shall state that the defendant is  
11 aware of no facts or circumstances upon which a verdict might be reached against  
12 him, other than his status as a seller in the stream of commerce.

13           4. The parties shall have sixty days in which to conduct discovery on the  
14 issues raised in the motion and affidavit. The court for good cause shown, may  
15 extend the time for discovery, and may enter a protective order pursuant to the  
16 rules of civil procedure regarding the scope of discovery on other issues.

17           5. Any party may move for a hearing on a motion to dismiss under this  
18 section. If the requirements of subsections 2 and 3 of this section are met, and  
19 no party comes forward at such a hearing with evidence of facts which would  
20 render the defendant seeking dismissal under this section liable on some basis  
21 other than his status as a seller in the stream of commerce, the court shall  
22 dismiss without prejudice the claim as to that defendant.

23           6. [No order of dismissal under this section shall operate to divest a court  
24 of venue or jurisdiction otherwise proper at the time the action was commencedA  
25 defendant dismissed pursuant to this section shall be considered to remain a  
26 party to such action only for such purposes.

27           7.] An order of dismissal under this section shall be interlocutory until  
28 final disposition of plaintiff's claim by settlement or judgment and may be set  
29 aside for good cause shown at anytime prior to such disposition.

**Section 1. The provisions of sections 507.040, 507.050, 508.010,  
2 508.012, and 537.762, as enacted by this act are procedural and shall not  
3 apply to cases that:**

- 4           **(1) Were filed in a court in this state as of January 1, 2019;**  
5           **(2) Have proper jurisdiction in this state; and**  
6           **(3) Have a trial date, which was set before January 1, 2019, and**  
7 **will begin December 31, 2019.**

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