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# Issue brief

## Venue-shopping reform

Venue shopping is a practice used by plaintiff's attorneys to file lawsuits in jurisdictions (Philadelphia) with a history of producing large jury awards, regardless of where the injury or damage took place.

### What is the history of venue reform in the Pennsylvania?

The practice of venue shopping in medical malpractice cases ended in 2002 with the enactment of Act 127 (While the legislative statute had ultimately been found unconstitutional, the state Supreme Court had already amended its Rule of Civil Procedure in 2003 to require that medical malpractice claims be filed in the county in which the cause of action occurred.) Venue reform has had a dramatic impact on medical malpractice filings in the Commonwealth, with 1,365 filed in Philadelphia in 2002 prior to venue reform, down to just 381 in 2010.

### What current legislation is being considered?

House Bill 1552 would expand venue reforms beyond medical malpractice cases to require that all personal injury actions be brought in the county in which the cause of action arose.

### How would expanded venue reform benefit job creators?

Expanding venue reform to all civil liability actions would lead to a more predictable and balanced legal system, which in turn encourage business investment and job creation. Eliminating venue shopping, along with other reforms, would help improve the Commonwealth's overall legal climate, the status of which factors into business leaders' decisions to locate, expand and grow their workforce in Pennsylvania.

**PA Chamber position:** *Support*

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