

Venue Freedom Act Model Legislation

Sec. 1. Purpose: The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to require courts to adjudicate challenges to regulations in counties where stakeholders reside, not only the Capitol;
- (2) to ensure small businesses and other citizens have access to the courts to challenge improper regulations.

Sec. 2. Definitions:

- (1) “Venue” refers to the court where a plaintiff is permitted to bring litigation against the state of [STATE] alleging improper regulation.
- (2) “Agency” has the same definition as [Cite to agency definition in state APA].
- (3) “Stakeholder” refers to any group, individual or entity subject to or directly affected by a regulation.

Sec. 3. Removal and Prevention of Venue Restrictions:

- (1) Proper venue for challenges to a regulation in [STATE] shall include:
 - (a) the county where plaintiff resides;
 - (b) the county of the plaintiff’s principal place of business;
 - (c) the county where the agency has its headquarters; or
 - (d) the county where the state capitol is located.
- (2) State agencies cannot further restrict proper venue for litigation challenging the legality of a regulation.
- (3) Agencies may not require that stakeholders travel to the agency’s home county, venue, or headquarters to submit or receive documentation that supports the analysis used to propose or finalize a regulation.

Sec. 4. Effective Date: This law shall take effect immediately upon enactment.