

By: Clardy

H.B. No. 2122

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the adoption of the Uniform Foreign-Country Money
Judgments Recognition Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 2, Civil Practice and Remedies
Code, is amended by adding Chapter 36A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 36A. ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

Sec. 36A.001. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the
Uniform Foreign-Country Money Judgments Recognition Act.

Sec. 36A.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Foreign country" means a government other than:

(A) the United States;

(B) a state, district, commonwealth, territory,
or insular possession of the United States; or

(C) any other government with respect to which
the decision in this state as to whether to recognize a judgment of
that government's court is initially subject to determination under
Section 1, Article IV, United States Constitution (the full faith
and credit clause).

(2) "Foreign-country judgment" means a judgment of a
court of a foreign country.

Sec. 36A.003. APPLICABILITY. (a) Except as otherwise
provided in Subsection (b), this chapter applies to a
foreign-country judgment to the extent that the judgment:

- 1 (1) grants or denies recovery of a sum of money; and
- 2 (2) under the law of the foreign country in which the
- 3 judgment is rendered, is final, conclusive, and enforceable.

4 (b) This chapter does not apply to a foreign-country
5 judgment that grants or denies recovery of a sum of money to the
6 extent that the judgment is:

- 7 (1) a judgment for taxes;
- 8 (2) a fine or other penalty; or
- 9 (3) a judgment for divorce, support, or maintenance,
- 10 or other judgment rendered in connection with domestic relations.

11 (c) A party seeking recognition of a foreign-country
12 judgment has the burden of establishing that this chapter applies
13 to the foreign-country judgment.

14 Sec. 36A.004. STANDARDS FOR RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN-COUNTRY
15 JUDGMENT. (a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (b) and
16 (c), a court of this state shall recognize a foreign-country
17 judgment to which this chapter applies.

18 (b) A court of this state may not recognize a
19 foreign-country judgment if:

- 20 (1) the judgment was rendered under a judicial system
- 21 that does not provide impartial tribunals or procedures compatible
- 22 with the requirements of due process of law;
- 23 (2) the foreign court did not have personal
- 24 jurisdiction over the defendant; or
- 25 (3) the foreign court did not have jurisdiction over
- 26 the subject matter.

27 (c) A court of this state is not required to recognize a

1 foreign-country judgment if:

2 (1) the defendant in the proceeding in the foreign
3 court did not receive notice of the proceeding in sufficient time to
4 enable the defendant to defend;

5 (2) the judgment was obtained by fraud that deprived
6 the losing party of an adequate opportunity to present the party's
7 case;

8 (3) the judgment or the cause of action on which the
9 judgment is based is repugnant to the public policy of this state or
10 the United States;

11 (4) the judgment conflicts with another final and
12 conclusive judgment;

13 (5) the proceeding in the foreign court was contrary
14 to an agreement between the parties under which the dispute in
15 question was to be determined otherwise than by proceedings in the
16 foreign court;

17 (6) jurisdiction was based only on personal service
18 and the foreign court was a seriously inconvenient forum for the
19 trial of the action;

20 (7) the judgment was rendered in circumstances that
21 raise substantial doubt about the integrity of the rendering court
22 with respect to the judgment; or

23 (8) the specific proceeding in the foreign court
24 leading to the judgment was not compatible with the requirements of
25 due process of law.

26 (d) A party resisting recognition of a foreign-country
27 judgment has the burden of establishing that a ground for

1 nonrecognition stated in Subsection (b) or (c) exists.

2 Sec. 36A.005. PERSONAL JURISDICTION. (a) A

3 foreign-country judgment may not be refused recognition for lack of
4 personal jurisdiction if:

5 (1) the defendant was served with process personally
6 in the foreign country;

7 (2) the defendant voluntarily appeared in the
8 proceeding, other than for the purpose of protecting property
9 seized or threatened with seizure in the proceeding or of
10 contesting the jurisdiction of the court over the defendant;

11 (3) the defendant, before commencement of the
12 proceeding, agreed to submit to the jurisdiction of the foreign
13 court with respect to the subject matter involved;

14 (4) the defendant was domiciled in the foreign country
15 when the proceeding was instituted or was a corporation or other
16 form of business organization whose principal place of business was
17 in, or that was organized under the laws of, the foreign country;

18 (5) the defendant had a business office in the foreign
19 country and the proceeding in the foreign court involved a cause of
20 action arising out of business done by the defendant through that
21 office in the foreign country; or

22 (6) the defendant operated a motor vehicle or airplane
23 in the foreign country and the proceeding involved a cause of action
24 arising out of that operation.

25 (b) The list of bases for personal jurisdiction in
26 Subsection (a) is not exclusive. A court of this state may
27 recognize bases of personal jurisdiction other than those listed in

1 Subsection (a) as sufficient to support a foreign-country judgment.

2 Sec. 36A.006. PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN-COUNTRY
3 JUDGMENT. (a) If recognition of a foreign-country judgment is
4 sought as an original matter, the issue of recognition may be raised
5 by filing an action seeking recognition of the foreign-country
6 judgment.

7 (b) If recognition of a foreign-country judgment is sought
8 in a pending action, the issue of recognition may be raised by
9 counterclaim, cross-claim, or affirmative defense.

10 Sec. 36A.007. EFFECT OF RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN-COUNTRY
11 JUDGMENT. If the court in a proceeding under Section 36A.006 finds
12 that the foreign-country judgment is entitled to recognition under
13 this chapter, then, to the extent that the foreign-country judgment
14 grants or denies recovery of a sum of money, the foreign-country
15 judgment is:

16 (1) conclusive between the parties to the same extent
17 as the judgment of a sister state entitled to full faith and credit
18 in this state would be conclusive; and

19 (2) enforceable in the same manner and to the same
20 extent as a judgment rendered in this state.

21 Sec. 36A.008. STAY OF PROCEEDINGS PENDING APPEAL OF
22 FOREIGN-COUNTRY JUDGMENT. If a party establishes that an appeal
23 from a foreign-country judgment is pending or will be taken, the
24 court may stay any proceedings with regard to the foreign-country
25 judgment until:

26 (1) the appeal is concluded;

27 (2) the time for appeal expires; or

1 (3) the appellant has had sufficient time to prosecute
2 the appeal and has failed to do so.

3 Sec. 36A.009. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS. An action to
4 recognize a foreign-country judgment must be brought within the
5 earlier of:

6 (1) the time during which the foreign-country judgment
7 is effective in the foreign country; or

8 (2) 15 years from the date that the foreign-country
9 judgment became effective in the foreign country.

10 Sec. 36A.010. UNIFORMITY OF INTERPRETATION. In applying
11 and construing this chapter, consideration must be given to the
12 need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to the subject
13 matter of this chapter among states that enact a law based on the
14 uniform act on which this chapter is based.

15 Sec. 36A.011. SAVING CLAUSE. This chapter does not prevent
16 the recognition under principles of comity or otherwise of a
17 foreign-country judgment not within the scope of this chapter.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 36, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is
19 repealed.

20 SECTION 3. Chapter 36A, Civil Practice and Remedies Code,
21 as added by this Act, applies to all actions commenced on or after
22 the effective date of this Act in which the issue of recognition of
23 a foreign-country judgment is raised.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.