

## HB 757 -- Civil Liberties

Sponsor: Bahr

This bill establishes the Civil Liberties Defense Act.

Any court, arbitration, tribunal, or administrative agency ruling or decision is void and unenforceable if based on a foreign law that does not grant the parties the same rights as the parties have under the United States and Missouri constitutions.

Contract provisions that apply a foreign law to contractual disputes or allow the disputes to be settled in another country are void and unenforceable in Missouri, if the foreign law would not grant the parties to the contract the same rights as the parties have under the United States and Missouri constitutions.

In specified cases, a court may refuse to take jurisdiction over matters if it believes there is a more appropriate forum for the dispute. If a state resident brings the case and the court finds that not hearing the case in Missouri violates or would likely violate the rights of the person who brought the case, the court must hear the case in Missouri.

These provisions do not apply to a business entity that subjects itself to a foreign law in a jurisdiction outside the United States. The bill does not authorize courts or prohibit religious organizations from adjudicating ecclesiastical matters.