

Introduced by

Senators Hogue, D. Larson

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(At the request of the Commission on Uniform State Laws)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact chapter 28-20.3 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to recognition of foreign-country money judgments; and to repeal chapter 28-20.2 of the
3 North Dakota Century Code, relating to foreign money judgments.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 28-20.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as
6 follows:

7 **28-20.3-01. Definitions.**

8 As used in this chapter:

9 1. "Foreign country" means a government other than:

10 a. The United States;

11 b. A state, district, commonwealth, territory, or insular possession of the United
12 States; or

13 c. Any other government with regard to which the decision in this state as to
14 whether to recognize a judgment of that government's courts is initially subject to
15 determination under section 1 of article IV of the Constitution of the United
16 States.

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

18 **28-20.3-02. Applicability.**

19 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, this chapter applies to a foreign-country
20 judgment to the extent the judgment:

21 a. Grants or denies recovery of a sum of money; and

22 b. Under the law of the foreign country where rendered, is final, conclusive and
23 enforceable.

- 1 2. This chapter does not apply to a foreign-country judgment, even if the judgment grants
2 or denies recovery of a sum of money, to the extent the judgment is:
3 a. A judgment for taxes;
4 b. A fine or other penalty; or
5 c. A judgment for divorce, support, or maintenance, or other judgment rendered in
6 connection with domestic relations.
7 3. A party seeking recognition of a foreign-country judgment has the burden of
8 establishing that this chapter applies to the foreign-country judgment.

9 **28-20.3-03. Standards for recognition of foreign-country judgment.**

- 10 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3, a court of this state shall
11 recognize a foreign-country judgment to which this chapter applies.
12 2. A court of this state may not recognize a foreign-country judgment if:
13 a. The judgment was rendered under a judicial system that does not provide
14 impartial tribunals or procedures compatible with the requirements of due
15 process of law;
16 b. The foreign court did not have personal jurisdiction over the defendant; or
17 c. The foreign court did not have jurisdiction over the subject matter.
18 3. A court of this state need not recognize a foreign-country judgment if:
19 a. The defendant in the proceeding in the foreign court did not receive notice of the
20 proceeding in sufficient time to enable the defendant to defend;
21 b. The judgment was obtained by fraud that deprived the losing party of an
22 adequate opportunity to present its case;
23 c. The judgment or the cause of action on which the judgment is based is repugnant
24 to the public policy of this state or of the United States;
25 d. The judgment conflicts with another final and conclusive judgment;
26 e. The proceeding in the foreign court was contrary to an agreement between the
27 parties under which the dispute in question was to be determined otherwise than
28 by proceedings in that foreign court;
29 f. In the case of jurisdiction based only on personal service, the foreign court was a
30 seriously inconvenient forum for the trial of the action;

- 1 g. The judgment was rendered in circumstances that raise substantial doubt about
2 the integrity of the rendering court with respect to the judgment; or
3 h. The specific proceeding in the foreign court leading to the judgment was not
4 compatible with the requirements of due process of law.
5 4. A party resisting recognition of a foreign-country judgment has the burden of
6 establishing that a ground for nonrecognition stated in subsection 2 or 3 exists.

7 **28-20.3-04. Personal jurisdiction.**

- 8 1. A foreign-country judgment may not be refused recognition for lack of personal
9 jurisdiction if:
10 a. The defendant was served with process personally in the foreign country;
11 b. The defendant voluntarily appeared in the proceeding, other than for the purpose
12 of protecting property seized or threatened with seizure in the proceeding or of
13 contesting the jurisdiction of the court over the defendant;
14 c. The defendant, before the commencement of the proceeding, had agreed to
15 submit to the jurisdiction of the foreign court with respect to the subject matter
16 involved;
17 d. The defendant was domiciled in the foreign country when the proceeding was
18 instituted or was a corporation or other form of business organization that had its
19 principal place of business in, or was organized under the laws of, the foreign
20 country;
21 e. The defendant had a business office in the foreign country and the proceeding in
22 the foreign court involved a cause of action arising out of business done by the
23 defendant through that office in the foreign country; or
24 f. The defendant operated a motor vehicle or airplane in the foreign country and the
25 proceeding involved a cause of action arising out of that operation.
26 2. The list of bases for personal jurisdiction in subsection 1 is not exclusive. The courts of
27 this state may recognize bases of personal jurisdiction other than those listed in
28 subsection 1 as sufficient to support a foreign-country judgment.

1 **28-20.3-05. Procedure for recognition of foreign-country judgment.**

2 1. If recognition of a foreign-country judgment is sought as an original matter, the issue of
3 recognition must be raised by filing an action seeking recognition of the
4 foreign-country judgment.

5 2. If recognition of a foreign-country judgment is sought in a pending action, the issue of
6 recognition may be raised by counterclaim, cross-claim, or affirmative defense.

7 **28-20.3-06. Effect of recognition of foreign-country judgment.**

8 If the court in a proceeding under section 28-20.3-05 finds the foreign-country judgment is
9 entitled to recognition under this chapter then, to the extent the foreign-country judgment grants
10 or denies recovery of a sum of money, the foreign-country judgment is:

11 1. Conclusive between the parties to the same extent as the judgment of a sister state
12 entitled to full faith and credit in this state would be conclusive; and

13 2. Enforceable in the same manner and to the same extent as a judgment rendered in
14 this state.

15 **28-20.3-07. Stay of proceedings pending appeal of foreign-country judgment.**

16 If a party establishes that an appeal from a foreign-country judgment is pending or will be
17 taken, the court may stay any proceedings with regard to the foreign-country judgment until the
18 appeal is concluded, the time for appeal expires, or the appellant has had sufficient time to
19 prosecute the appeal and has failed to do so.

20 **28-20.3-08. Statute of limitations.**

21 An action to recognize a foreign-country judgment must be commenced within the earlier of
22 the time during which the foreign-country judgment is effective in the foreign country or fifteen
23 years from the date the foreign-country judgment became effective in the foreign country.

24 **28-20.3-09. Uniformity of interpretation.**

25 In applying and construing this uniform chapter, consideration must be given to the need to
26 promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

27 **SECTION 2. REPEAL.** Chapter 28-20.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.