

## HR 860

Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Trial Jurisdiction Act of 2001

**Congress:** 107 (2001–2003, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Law

**Introduced:** Mar 6, 2001

**Current Status:** For Further Action See H.R.2215.

**Latest Action:** For Further Action See H.R.2215. (Oct 3, 2002)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-bill/860>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-9]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** WI • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Reported By	Mar 13, 2001
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 15, 2001

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Law

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
107 HR 2215	Procedurally related	Nov 2, 2002: Became Public Law No: 107-273.

## **Summary** (as of Mar 14, 2001)

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Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Trial Jurisdiction Act of 2001 - Amends the Federal judicial code to allow a civil action transferred for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings (multidistrict litigation) to be transferred to the transferee or other district for trial purposes in the interest of justice and for the convenience of the parties and witnesses. Directs that any such action transferred for trial purposes be remanded to the district court from which it was transferred for the determination of compensatory damages, unless the court also finds that the action should be retained for the determination of compensatory damages for the convenience of the parties and witnesses and in the interests of justice.

Grants Federal district courts original jurisdiction over civil actions arising out of a single accident that results in the death or injury of 25 or more natural persons, provided the injury has resulted in damages which exceed \$150,000 per person and minimal diversity of citizenship (as prescribed in this Act) exists. Directs the district court to abstain from hearing any such action in which: (1) the substantial majority of all plaintiffs are citizens of a single State of which the primary defendants are also citizens; and (2) the claims asserted will be governed primarily by the laws of that State. Permits any person with a claim arising from such an accident to intervene as a party plaintiff, even if that person could not have brought an action in district court as an original matter. Requires a federal district court in which such an action is pending to notify the judicial panel on multidistrict litigation. Authorizes venue for such action in any district in which a defendant resides or in which a substantial part of the accident occurred.

Permits a district court to retain such actions for the determination of liability and punitive damages. Calls for remand of determinations of damages other than punitive damages, including the possibility of remand to State courts in which actions were originally filed, unless the Federal court finds that it would serve the convenience of parties and witnesses and the interests of justice to retain the action for the determination of such damages as well.

Permits removal of actions which could have been brought in district court under the above provisions from State to U.S. district courts. Authorizes removal before trial within 30 days of a defendant's becoming a party to a suit under this Act, or at a later time with leave of the district court. Establishes a presumption in favor of discretionary remand to State courts for damages determinations after rulings on liability.

Authorizes nationwide service of process and, upon a showing of good cause, nationwide service of subpoenas with regard to actions under this Act.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Oct 3, 2002:** For Further Action See H.R.2215.
- **Mar 15, 2001:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- **Mar 14, 2001:** Mr. Sensenbrenner moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Mar 14, 2001:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H893-898)
- **Mar 14, 2001:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 860.
- **Mar 14, 2001:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H893-894)
- **Mar 14, 2001:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H893-894)
- **Mar 14, 2001:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 12, 2001:** Reported by the Committee on Judiciary. H. Rept. 107-14.
- **Mar 12, 2001:** Reported by the Committee on Judiciary. H. Rept. 107-14.
- **Mar 12, 2001:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 9.
- **Mar 8, 2001:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 8, 2001:** Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.
- **Mar 6, 2001:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 6, 2001:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 6, 2001:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E280)
- **Mar 6, 2001:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.