

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 117

DATE: February 14, 2008

Version: First engrossment

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Subject: Long-Arm Personal Jurisdiction in Defamation and Privacy Suits

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Overview

The bill removes the bar to personal jurisdiction in Minnesota over foreign corporations and non-resident individuals when the cause of action lies in defamation or privacy.

Section

1 **Personal Jurisdiction.** Current law bars Minnesota courts from exercising jurisdiction over foreign corporations and nonresident individuals when the cause of action is defamation or privacy. The bill removes that bar, permitting personal jurisdiction in Minnesota for out-of-state acts that cause injury or property damage within Minnesota . For example, jurisdiction in court may be permitted against the operator of a website based outside of Minnesota , if the website defamed or violated the privacy of someone in Minnesota .

The bill does *not* guarantee personal jurisdiction over all defamation and privacy cases based on out-of-state actions. In order to acquire personal jurisdiction in these cases, other constitutional standards must still be satisfied.

Effective August 1, 2008 , and applies to all causes of action arising on or after that date.