

Existing law provides that a district court upon contradictory motion, or upon the court's own motion after contradictory hearing, may transfer a civil case to another district court where it might have been brought in certain circumstances. Also provides that no suit brought in the parish in which the plaintiff is domiciled, and in a court which is otherwise a court of competent jurisdiction and proper venue, shall be transferred to any other court.

New law provides that domicile shall be the location pursuant to the general rules of venue (Article 42) where the plaintiff would be subject to suit had he been a defendant.

New law provides that when two or more actions requesting the certification of a class are filed in two or more La. courts regarding the same transaction or occurrence at the same location, and such classes, if certified, would encompass one or more of the same plaintiffs suing in the same capacities against one or more of the same defendants in the same capacities, the defendant may have all such actions transferred to the district court where the event occurred.

New law also provides that when two or more actions requesting the certification of a class are filed in two or more La. courts regarding multiple related transactions or occurrences in different locations and such classes, if certified, would encompass one or more of the same plaintiffs suing in the same capacities against one or more of the same defendants in the same capacities, the defendant may have all such actions transferred to the district court where the first suit was brought.

New law further provides that within 30 days of the certification of a class by a different La. court regarding the same transaction or occurrence and encompassing one or more of the same plaintiffs suing in the same capacities against one or more of the same defendants in the same capacities, any court where a related putative class action is pending may, upon contradictory motion, in the interests of justice and for good cause shown, transfer the putative class action to the district where the related action has been certified.

Existing law defines the domicile of a natural person as the place of his habitual residence.

New law defines the domicile of a juridical person as either the state of its formation or the state of its principal place of business, whichever is most pertinent to the particular issue, unless otherwise specifically provided by law.

Provides that new law shall have prospective application only and shall not apply to any action pending prior to the effective date of new law.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends C.C.P. Art. 123(A) and C.C. Art. 38; Adds C.C.P. Arts. 593.1 and 593.2)