

As Reported by the House Criminal Justice Committee

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Sub. S. B. No. 20

**Senators Goodman, Amstutz, Coughlin, Clancy, Schuler, Jacobson, Cates,
Mumper, Austria, Schuring, Grendell, Wachtmann, Gardner, Carey, Padgett,
Jordan, Spada, Hottinger, Zurz, Armbruster, Niehaus, Hagan, Dann, Fedor,
Miller**

Representatives Latta, D. Evans, Buehrer, Seaver, Seitz

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A B I L L

To amend sections 2901.11 and 2901.12 of the Revised	1
Code to clarify the application of the state's	2
criminal jurisdiction statute to offenses	3
committed in a jurisdiction other than Ohio that	4
result from a conspiracy, an attempt, or	5
complicity to commit the offense that occurs in	6
Ohio; to clarify the application of that statute	7
in homicide cases; to clarify that Ohio criminal	8
specifications are applicable to persons who	9
commit an offense in a jurisdiction other than	10
Ohio but are subject to Ohio criminal	11
jurisdiction; and to make other related changes to	12
the state's criminal jurisdiction and venue	13
statutes.	14

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 2901.11 and 2901.12 of the Revised	15
Code be amended to read as follows:	16

Sec. 2901.11. (A) A person is subject to criminal prosecution 17
and punishment in this state if any of the following occur: 18

(1) The person commits an offense under the laws of this 19
state, any element of which takes place in this state. 20

(2) While in this state, the person ~~conspires or~~ attempts to 21
commit, or is guilty of complicity in the commission of, an 22
offense in another jurisdiction, which offense is an offense under 23
both the laws of this state and the other jurisdiction, or, while 24
in this state, the person conspires to commit an offense in 25
another jurisdiction, which offense is an offense under both the 26
laws of this state and the other jurisdiction, and a substantial 27
overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy is undertaken in this 28
state by the person or another person involved in the conspiracy, 29
subsequent to the person's entrance into the conspiracy. In any 30
case in which a person attempts to commit, is guilty of complicity 31
in the commission of, or conspires to commit an offense in another 32
jurisdiction as described in this division, the person is subject 33
to criminal prosecution and punishment in this state for the 34
attempt, complicity, or conspiracy, and for any resulting offense 35
that is committed or completed in the other jurisdiction. 36

(3) While out of this state, the person conspires or attempts 37
to commit, or is guilty of complicity in the commission of, an 38
offense in this state. 39

(4) While out of this state, the person omits to perform a 40
legal duty imposed by the laws of this state, which omission 41
affects a legitimate interest of the state in protecting, 42
governing, or regulating any person, property, thing, transaction, 43
or activity in this state. 44

(5) While out of this state, the person unlawfully takes or 45

retains property and subsequently brings any of the unlawfully
taken or retained property into this state.

(6) While out of this state, the person unlawfully takes or
entices another and subsequently brings the other person into this
state.

(7) The person, by means of a computer, computer system,
computer network, telecommunication, telecommunications device,
telecommunications service, or information service, causes or
knowingly permits any writing, data, image, or other
telecommunication to be disseminated or transmitted into this
state in violation of the law of this state.

(B) In homicide, the element referred to in division (A)(1)
of this section ~~is either~~ includes the act that causes death, ~~or~~
the physical contact that causes death, ~~or~~ the death itself, or
any other element that is set forth in the offense in question. If
any part of the body of a homicide victim is found in this state,
the death is presumed to have occurred within this state.

(C)(1) This state includes the land and water within its
boundaries and the air space above that land and water, with
respect to which this state has either exclusive or concurrent
legislative jurisdiction. Where the boundary between this state
and another state or foreign country is disputed, the disputed
territory is conclusively presumed to be within this state for
purposes of this section.

(2) The courts of common pleas of Adams, Athens, Belmont,
Brown, Clermont, Columbiana, Gallia, Hamilton, Jefferson,
Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Scioto, and Washington counties have
jurisdiction beyond the north or northwest shore of the Ohio river
extending to the opposite shore line, between the extended
boundary lines of any adjacent counties or adjacent state. Each of
those courts of common pleas has concurrent jurisdiction on the

Ohio river with any adjacent court of common pleas that borders on
that river and with any court of Kentucky or of West Virginia that
borders on the Ohio river and that has jurisdiction on the Ohio
river under the law of Kentucky or the law of West Virginia,
whichever is applicable, or under federal law.

(D) When an offense is committed under the laws of this
state, and it appears beyond a reasonable doubt that the offense
or any element of the offense took place either in this state or
in another jurisdiction or jurisdictions, but it cannot reasonably
be determined in which it took place, the offense or element is
conclusively presumed to have taken place in this state for
purposes of this section.

(E) When a person is subject to criminal prosecution and
punishment in this state for an offense committed or completed
outside of this state, the person is subject to all specifications
for that offense that would be applicable if the offense had been
committed within this state.

(F) Any act, conduct, or element that is a basis of a person
being subject under this section to criminal prosecution and
punishment in this state need not be committed personally by the
person as long as it is committed by another person who is in
complicity or conspiracy with the person.

(G) This section shall be liberally construed, consistent
with constitutional limitations, to allow this state the broadest
possible jurisdiction over offenses and persons committing
offenses in, or affecting, this state.

(H) For purposes of division (A)(2) of this section, an overt
act is substantial when it is of a character that manifests a
purpose on the part of the actor that the object of the conspiracy
should be completed.

(I) As used in this section, "computer," "computer system,"

"computer network," "information service," "telecommunication," 109
"telecommunications device," "telecommunications service," "data," 110
and "writing" have the same meanings as in section 2913.01 of the 111
Revised Code. 112

Sec. 2901.12. (A) The trial of a criminal case in this state 113
shall be held in a court having jurisdiction of the subject 114
matter, and in the territory of which the offense or any element 115
of the offense was committed. 116

(B) When the offense or any element of the offense was 117
committed in an aircraft, motor vehicle, train, watercraft, or 118
other vehicle, in transit, and it cannot reasonably be determined 119
in which jurisdiction the offense was committed, the offender may 120
be tried in any jurisdiction through which the aircraft, motor 121
vehicle, train, watercraft, or other vehicle passed. 122

(C) When the offense involved the unlawful taking or 123
receiving of property or the unlawful taking or enticing of 124
another, the offender may be tried in any jurisdiction from which 125
or into which the property or victim was taken, received, or 126
enticed. 127

(D) When the offense is conspiracy, attempt, or complicity 128
cognizable under division (A)(2) of section 2901.11 of the Revised 129
Code, the offender may be tried in any jurisdiction in which the 130
conspiracy, attempt, complicity, or any of its elements occurred. 131
If an offense resulted outside this state from the conspiracy, 132
attempt, or complicity, that resulting offense also may be tried 133
in any jurisdiction in which the conspiracy, attempt, complicity, 134
or any of the elements of the conspiracy, attempt, or complicity 135
occurred. 136

(E) When the offense is conspiracy or attempt cognizable 137
under division (A)(3) of section 2901.11 of the Revised Code, the 138
offender may be tried in any jurisdiction in which the offense 139

that was the object of the conspiracy or attempt, or any element
of that offense, was intended to or could have taken place. When
the offense is complicity cognizable under division (A)(3) of
section 2901.11 of the Revised Code, the offender may be tried in
any jurisdiction in which the principal offender may be tried.

(F) When an offense is considered to have been committed in
this state while the offender was out of this state, and the
jurisdiction in this state in which the offense or any material
element of the offense was committed is not reasonably
ascertainable, the offender may be tried in any jurisdiction in
which the offense or element reasonably could have been committed.

(G) When it appears beyond a reasonable doubt that an offense
or any element of an offense was committed in any of two or more
jurisdictions, but it cannot reasonably be determined in which
jurisdiction the offense or element was committed, the offender
may be tried in any of those jurisdictions.

(H) When an offender, as part of a course of criminal
conduct, commits offenses in different jurisdictions, the offender
may be tried for all of those offenses in any jurisdiction in
which one of those offenses or any element of one of those
offenses occurred. Without limitation on the evidence that may be
used to establish the course of criminal conduct, any of the
following is prima-facie evidence of a course of criminal conduct:

(1) The offenses involved the same victim, or victims of the
same type or from the same group.

(2) The offenses were committed by the offender in the
offender's same employment, or capacity, or relationship to
another.

(3) The offenses were committed as part of the same
transaction or chain of events, or in furtherance of the same
purpose or objective.

(4) The offenses were committed in furtherance of the same 171
conspiracy. 172

(5) The offenses involved the same or a similar modus 173
operandi. 174

(6) The offenses were committed along the offender's line of 175
travel in this state, regardless of the offender's point of origin 176
or destination. 177

(I)(1) When the offense involves a computer, computer system, 178
computer network, telecommunication, telecommunications device, 179
telecommunications service, or information service, the offender 180
may be tried in any jurisdiction containing any location of the 181
computer, computer system, or computer network of the victim of 182
the offense, in any jurisdiction from which or into which, as part 183
of the offense, any writing, data, or image is disseminated or 184
transmitted by means of a computer, computer system, computer 185
network, telecommunication, telecommunications device, 186
telecommunications service, or information service, or in any 187
jurisdiction in which the alleged offender commits any activity 188
that is an essential part of the offense. 189

(2) As used in this section, "computer," "computer system," 190
"computer network," "information service," "telecommunication," 191
"telecommunications device," "telecommunications service," "data," 192
and "writing" have the same meanings as in section 2913.01 of the 193
Revised Code. 194

(J) When the offense involves the death of a person, and it 195
cannot reasonably be determined in which jurisdiction the offense 196
was committed, the offender may be tried in the jurisdiction in 197
which the dead person's body or any part of the dead person's body 198
was found. 199

(K) Notwithstanding any other requirement for the place of 200
trial, venue may be changed, upon motion of the prosecution, the 201

defense, or the court, to any court having jurisdiction of the 202
subject matter outside the county in which trial otherwise would 203
be held, when it appears that a fair and impartial trial cannot be 204
held in the jurisdiction in which trial otherwise would be held, 205
or when it appears that trial should be held in another 206
jurisdiction for the convenience of the parties and in the 207
interests of justice. 208

Section 2. That existing sections 2901.11 and 2901.12 of the 209
Revised Code are hereby repealed. 210

Section 3. The General Assembly hereby declares that it 211
intends by the amendments made by Sections 1 and 2 of this act to 212
prospectively overrule the decision of the Ohio Supreme Court in 213
State v. Yarbrough (2004), 104 Ohio St. 3d 1. 214