

Bill No.: SF0141 **Effective:** 7/1/2021 12:00:00 AM
LSO No.: 21LSO-0385
Enrolled Act No.: SEA No. 0071
Chapter No.: 143
Prime Sponsor: Perkins
Catch Title: **Business entities-representation in detainer cases.**
Subject: Authorizing businesses to represent themselves in forcible-entry and detainer cases.

Summary/Major Elements:

- Generally, a business must be represented by legal counsel in judicial proceedings and cannot represent itself *pro se* like an individual person can.
- This act authorizes a business entity to represent itself without an attorney in any forcible-entry or detainer case that the business entity initiates or responds to, subject to conditions.
- To qualify for self-representation, a business entity can only be represented by an owner, shareholder, member or partner; the business entity must own a majority interest in the lands or tenement subject to the action; and the business entity must provide notice in writing to the court and all parties that it is being represented by an owner, shareholder, member or partner.
- If a business entity is later represented by an attorney, the opposing party is entitled to a continuance to seek its own attorney.
- The act specifies that an owner, shareholder, member or partner representing a business entity is not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

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