
By: Delegate Vallario

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 1996

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **District Court - Civil Jurisdiction**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the civil jurisdiction of the District Court to include certain
4 cases involving not more than a certain amount in controversy; providing that
5 certain amounts in controversy that determine whether the District Court has
6 jurisdiction in certain cases shall be exclusive of costs and interest; providing that a
7 certain amount in controversy that determines whether the District Court and a trial
8 court of general jurisdiction have concurrent jurisdiction in certain cases shall be
9 exclusive of costs and interest; providing for the application of this Act; and
10 generally relating to the civil jurisdiction of the District Court.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
13 Section 4-401(1) and (3) and 4-402(d)(1)(i)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

19 4-401.

20 Except as provided in § 4-402 of this subtitle, and subject to the venue provisions of
21 Title 6 of this article, the District Court has exclusive original civil jurisdiction in:

22 (1) An action in contract or tort, if the debt or damages claimed do not
23 exceed [\$20,000] \$30,000, exclusive of INTEREST, COSTS, AND attorney's fees if
24 attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract;

25 (3) A matter of attachment before judgment, if the sum claimed does not
26 exceed [\$20,000] \$30,000, exclusive of INTEREST, COSTS, AND attorney's fees if
27 attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract;

28 4-402.

29 (d) (1) (i) Except in a case under paragraph (2), (4), (5), or (6) of § 4-401 of
30 this subtitle, the plaintiff may elect to file suit in the District Court or in a trial court of

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1 general jurisdiction, if the amount in controversy exceeds \$2,500, exclusive of INTEREST,
2 COSTS, AND attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed
4 only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or
5 application to any case filed before the effective date of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 1996.