
By: **Delegates Vallario, Palumbo, and Valderrama**
Introduced and read first time: January 22, 1998
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
4 certain cases involving not more than a certain amount in controversy;
5 providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the civil
6 jurisdiction of the District Court.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
9 Section 4-401 (1) and (3)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 4-401.

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

19 (1) An action in contract or tort, if the debt or damages claimed do not
20 exceed [\$20,000] \$30,000, exclusive of prejudgment or postjudgment interest, costs,
21 and attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract;

22 (3) A matter of attachment before judgment, if the sum claimed does not
23 exceed [\$20,000] \$30,000, exclusive of prejudgment or postjudgment interest, costs,
24 and attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract;

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

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 1998.