

HOUSE BILL 194

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1998 Regular Session  
8lr0446

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By: **Delegates Vallario, Palumbo, and Valderrama**  
Introduced and read first time: January 22, 1998  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 24, 1998

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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~~ \$25,000, exclusive of prejudgment or postjudgment interest,  
21 costs, and attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract;

1           (3)       A matter of attachment before judgment, if the sum claimed does not  
2 exceed [\$20,000] ~~\$30,000~~ \$25,000, exclusive of prejudgment or postjudgment interest,  
3 costs, and attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract;

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

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