

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 325

(Delegate Dembrow, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

---

**District Court Jurisdiction - Enforcement of Local Consumer Protection Codes**

---

This bill adds, to the types of cases over which the District Court has exclusive original civil jurisdiction, a petition filed by a county or municipality for enforcement of consumer protection codes for which equitable relief is provided.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** This bill is clarifying in nature and is not expected to directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None -- see above.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** In general, the District Court of Maryland has exclusive original civil jurisdiction in an action in contract or tort if the debt or damages claimed does not exceed \$25,000, excluding interest, costs, and attorney's fees. The District Court has exclusive original jurisdiction over any petition filed by a county or municipality for enforcement of local health, housing, fire, building, electric, licenses and permits, plumbing, animal control, and zoning codes for which equitable relief is provided. The District Court also generally has exclusive original jurisdiction, regardless of the amount in controversy, over county code violations and civil infractions, as well as other specified matters (*e.g.*, replevin actions, landlord-tenant disputes).

---

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Allegany County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2002  
lc/cer

---

Analysis by: Debra A. Dickstein

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510