

was filed, against any defendant who the court finds caused an inordinate UNNECESSARY delay in having the action ready or set for trial.

(b) For purposes of this section, a delay caused by a defendant's insurer or counsel shall be deemed to be a AN UNNECESSARY delay caused by the defendant.

(c) The granting of two or more postponements of a trial date set by the court or the clerk or assignment officer thereof at the request of one or more defendants may be deemed to be evidence of an inordinate delay caused by such defendant or defendants.

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(e) Civil jurisdiction.—(1) General Jurisdiction. The District Court shall have jurisdiction at law in all cases for the enforcement of contracts and to obtain redress for wrongs where the debt or damages claimed do not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) except that in any action for damages arising out of the operation of a motor vehicle, the District Court shall have jurisdiction where the damages claimed do not exceed \$10,000; in actions or replevin where the value of the thing in controversy does not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00); in all cases of attachment on original process where the sum claimed does not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00); in all other civil action over which the People's Court of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Montgomery or Wicomico County had jurisdiction prior to the effective date of this section in each such county, and where the amount in controversy does not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00); and in all actions involving landlord and tenant, distraint, forcible entry and detainer and grantee suits regardless of the amount involved.

(2) Concurrent and Exclusive Jurisdiction. In all those civil actions listed in paragraph (1) hereof, the District Court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction where the amount in controversy does not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00); provided that the court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction in actions involving landlord and tenant, distraint, forcible entry and detainer and grantee suits regardless of the amount involved. Jurisdiction shall be concurrent with the circuit court in all cases where the amount in controversy exceeds two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00), but does not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00); provided, however that notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the jurisdiction of the District Court in actions for damages up to \$10,000.00 arising out of the operation of a motor vehicle shall be original and exclusive.

(3) Venue. (i) The venue provisions of Article 75, Section 75 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1957 Edition, as amended, shall apply to all civil actions in the District Court.

(ii) In all civil actions where the amount in controversy exceeds five hundred dollars (\$500.00) either party shall have a right, within such time as prescribed by rule, to demand a trial by jury in which event the case shall be transmitted forthwith to the circuit court in the county in which the cause of action arose or was filed, or to the Superior Court of Baltimore City if the cause of action arose or was filed in the City of Baltimore.