

Small Claims - District Court

FOR the purpose of [[establishing in the District Court of each Judicial District of Maryland a Small Claims Division for the purpose of the informal settlement of claims for money not in excess of \$500, exclusive of interest and costs, and relating generally to the practice, procedures, rules, forms, hearings, fees, transfer of cases, and appeals with respect to small claims in the District Courts of Maryland]] requiring by a certain date that the Court of Appeals establish procedures in the District Court for the informal processing and trial of any cause of action under a certain amount; imposing certain duties on the Chief Judge of the District Court; providing for the filing and hearing of certain claims; requiring clerks of the District Court to render assistance in the preparation of a statement of claim when requested by the person filing the statement of claim; providing the clerk shall not be liable for assistance rendered; and providing for the rules of evidence and procedures in certain civil claim cases filed in the District Court of Maryland.

May 15, 1975.

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 743.

This bill requires the Court of Appeals to promulgate rules establishing procedures for the processing of claims of \$500 or less in the District Court on an informal basis. It requires the Court of Appeals to have these procedures in force and effect by January 1, 1976.

The bill then sets forth certain statutory procedures to be followed with respect to these small claims, among them that,

(1) an action is commenced by filing a Statement of Claim "in concise form and free of technicalities";

(2) the Clerk shall assist individuals in