

4-402.

(d) (1) Except in a case under paragraph (2), (4), (5), or (6) of § 4-401 of this subtitle, the plaintiff may elect to file suit in the District Court or in a trial court of general jurisdiction, if the amount in controversy exceeds \$2,500, EXCLUSIVE OF ATTORNEY'S FEES IF ATTORNEY'S FEES ARE RECOVERABLE BY LAW OR CONTRACT.

(e) (1) In a civil action in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$500, EXCLUSIVE OF ATTORNEY'S FEES IF ATTORNEY'S FEES ARE RECOVERABLE BY LAW OR CONTRACT, a party may demand a jury trial pursuant to the Maryland District Rules.

4-405.

The District Court has exclusive jurisdiction over a small claim action, which, for purposes of this section, means a civil action for money in which the amount claimed does not exceed [one thousand dollars] \$1,000 exclusive of interest, [and] costs, AND ATTORNEY'S FEES, IF ATTORNEY'S FEES ARE RECOVERABLE BY LAW OR BY CONTRACT; and landlord tenant action under §§ 8-401 and 8-402 of the real property article of the Code, in which the amount of rent claimed does not exceed [one thousand dollars] \$1,000 exclusive of interest and costs.

12-401.

(d) In a civil case in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$1,000 exclusive of interest, [and] costs, AND ATTORNEY'S FEES IF ATTORNEY'S FEES ARE RECOVERABLE BY LAW OR CONTRACT, and in any case in which the parties so agree, an appeal shall be heard on the record made in the District Court. In every other case, including a criminal case in which sentence has been imposed or suspended following a plea of nolo contendere or guilty, and an appeal in a municipal infraction case, an appeal shall be tried de novo.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the provisions of this Act apply only to any civil action filed in the District Court or to a small claims appeal noted in the District Court on and after July 1, 1982.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1982.

June 1, 1982

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
Speaker of the House of Delegates