

jurisdiction; altering the amount of a small claim action in the District Court; altering the amount in controversy in a civil action in the District Court in which formal pleadings are prohibited; altering the minimum amount in controversy in civil cases in which appeals from the District Court are required to be heard on the record; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to small claim actions in the District Court.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 4-402(d)(1)(i), 4-405, 6-403, and 12-401(f)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

4-402.

(d) (1) (i) 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] \$5,000, exclusive of prejudgment or postjudgment interest, costs, and attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract.

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 [\$2,500] \$5,000 exclusive of interest, costs, and attorney's fees, if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or 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 [\$2,500] \$5,000 exclusive of interest and costs.

6-403.

(a) In a civil action in the District Court, if the amount in controversy is [\$1,000] \$2,500 or less, there shall be no formal pleadings.

(b) If the amount in controversy exceeds [\$1,000] \$2,500 the forms and pleadings are as provided by Title 3, Chapter 300 of the Maryland Rules.

12-401.

(f) In a civil case in which the amount in controversy exceeds [\$2,500] \$5,000 exclusive of interest, costs, and attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract, in any matter arising under § 4-401(7)(ii) of this article, 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