

an action for damages that does not exceed \$25,000. The established jurisdictional amounts for our court system are carefully designed to balance the cases considered by the District Court and circuit courts. Maintaining this balance is necessary to protect basic individual rights, effectively apply rules of discovery and reduce the possibility that a disproportionate number of litigants will not be satisfied with their day in court. Any disruption of this balance created by altering or tampering with the current law must be thoroughly supported by substantial evidence. House Bill 48 does not provide the persuasive reasoning necessary to compromise the established jurisdictional amount in controversy to unwarranted changes.

For the above reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 48.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 48

AN ACT concerning

District Court - Civil Jurisdiction - Dishonored Checks and Other Instruments

FOR the purpose of clarifying that the District Court of Maryland has exclusive original civil jurisdiction in an action for certain damages for a dishonored check or other instrument regardless of the amount in controversy; making stylistic changes; providing that in an action for certain damages for a dishonored check or instrument a defendant is entitled to demand a transfer of the action from the District Court to an appropriate circuit court under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the exclusive original civil jurisdiction of the District Court of Maryland.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article - Commercial Law
Section 15-802
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 4-401
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1998 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 4-402(f)
Annotated Code of Maryland