

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 been imposed or suspended following a plea of nolo contendere or guilty, and an appeal in a municipal infraction or Code violation case, an appeal shall be tried de novo.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any civil action filed before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

May 16, 2002

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker: