

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1989 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

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.

(e) (1) In a civil action in which the amount in controversy exceeds [\$500] \$5,000, 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 Rules.

(2) Except in a replevin action, if a party is entitled to and files a timely demand, in accordance with the Maryland Rules, for a jury trial, jurisdiction is transferred forthwith and the record of the proceeding shall be transmitted to the appropriate court. In a replevin action, if a party is entitled to and files a timely demand for a jury trial, the District Court may conduct a hearing on the show cause order prior to issuing the writ, enforce an injunction issued by it in the action, and issue, renew, and receive returns upon the writ of replevin. The action shall be transmitted to the appropriate court only after the writ has been returned, stating that the property sought has been seized or elogned, and the time for filing a notice of intention to defend has expired.

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 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 exclusive of interest and costs.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the passage of this Act is contingent on the passage of Chapter _____ (S.B. _____/H.B. _____) (2lr1966/2lr0546) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1992, a Constitutional Amendment, and its ratification by the voters of the State.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of Section 2 above, this Act shall take effect October 1, 1992.

May 26, 1992

The Honorable R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker: