

Approved May 21, 1998.

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**CHAPTER 673**

**(House Bill 194)**

AN ACT concerning

**District Court - Civil Jurisdiction**

FOR the purpose of altering the civil jurisdiction of the District Court to include certain cases involving not more than a certain amount in controversy; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the civil jurisdiction of the District Court.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 4-401(1) and (3)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 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**

4-401.

Except as provided in § 4-402 of this subtitle, and subject to the venue provisions of Title 6 of this article, the District Court has exclusive original civil jurisdiction in:

(1) An action in contract or tort, if the debt or damages claimed do not exceed ~~[\$20,000]~~ ~~\$20,000~~ \$25,000, exclusive of prejudgment or postjudgment interest, costs, and attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract;

(3) A matter of attachment before judgment, if the sum claimed does not exceed ~~[\$20,000]~~ ~~\$20,000~~ \$25,000, exclusive of prejudgment or postjudgment interest, costs, and attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract;

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

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1998.

Approved May 21, 1998.