

# HOUSE BILL 461

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5lr0736

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By: **Delegates Rosenberg, Vallario, Conaway, and Morales**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **District Court – Civil Jurisdiction – Amount in Controversy**

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

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
9 Section 4–401(1) and (3)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 4–401.

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

18 (1) An action in contract or tort, if the debt or damages claimed do not  
19 exceed ~~[\$30,000]~~ **\$50,000**, exclusive of prejudgment or postjudgment interest, costs, and  
20 attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract;

21 (3) A matter of attachment before judgment, if the sum claimed does not  
22 exceed ~~[\$30,000]~~ **\$50,000**, exclusive of prejudgment or postjudgment interest, costs, and  
23 attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

4           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
5 October 1, 2015.