

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH80063-LL-48 (01/25)

Short Title: Increase Jurisdictional Amount/District Ct. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Glazier, McGrady, and Stam (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY FOR CIVIL ACTIONS IN  
3 DISTRICT COURT.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 7A-243 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 7A-243. Proper division for trial of civil actions generally determined by amount in  
7 controversy.

8 Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the district court division is the proper division  
9 for the trial of all civil actions in which the amount in controversy is ~~ten thousand dollars~~  
10 ~~(\$10,000)~~ twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or less; and the superior court division is the  
11 proper division for the trial of all civil actions in which the amount in controversy exceeds ~~ten~~  
12 ~~thousand dollars (\$10,000)~~ twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

13 For purposes of determining the amount in controversy, the following rules apply whether  
14 the relief prayed is monetary or nonmonetary, or both, and with respect to claims asserted by  
15 complaint, counterclaim, cross-complaint or third-party complaint:

- 16 (1) The amount in controversy is computed without regard to interest and costs.  
17 (2) Where monetary relief is prayed, the amount prayed for is in controversy  
18 unless the pleading in question shows to a legal certainty that the amount  
19 claimed cannot be recovered under the applicable measure of damages. The  
20 value of any property seized in attachment, claim and delivery, or other  
21 ancillary proceeding, is not in controversy and is not considered in  
22 determining the amount in controversy.  
23 (3) Where no monetary relief is sought, but the relief sought would establish,  
24 enforce, or avoid an obligation, right or title, the value of the obligation,  
25 right, or title is in controversy. Where the owner or legal possessor of  
26 property seeks recovery of property on which a lien is asserted pursuant to  
27 G.S. 44A-4(a) the amount in controversy is that portion of the asserted lien  
28 which is disputed. The judge may require by rule or order that parties make a  
29 good faith estimate of the value of any nonmonetary relief sought.  
30 (4) a. Except as provided in subparagraph c of this subdivision, where a single  
31 party asserts two or more properly joined claims, the claims are aggregated  
32 in computing the amount in controversy.  
33 b. Except as provided in subparagraph c, where there are two or more  
34 parties properly joined in an action and their interests are aligned,  
35 their claims are aggregated in computing the amount in controversy.



- 1                   c.       No claims are aggregated which are mutually exclusive and in the
- 2                               alternative, or which are successive, in the sense that satisfaction of
- 3                               one claim will bar recovery upon the other.
- 4                   d.       Where there are two or more claims not subject to aggregation the
- 5                               highest claim is the amount in controversy.
- 6           (5)       Where the value of the relief to a claimant differs from the cost thereof to an
- 7                               opposing party, the higher amount is used in determining the amount in
- 8                               controversy."

9                   **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 7A-243, as amended by this  
10 act, from July 1, 2013, until June 30, 2015, for civil actions in which the amount in controversy  
11 is between ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), either  
12 the district court or the superior court is the proper division for trial.

13                   **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2013, and applies to cases filed on  
14 or after that date.