

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 16.1-77 of the Code of Virginia, relating to jurisdictional amounts in*  
3 *general district courts; exception for liquidated damages for violation of vehicle weight limits.*

4 [H 362]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 16.1-77 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 16.1-77. Civil jurisdiction of general district courts.

9 Except as provided in Article 5 (§ 16.1-122.1 et seq.) of this chapter, each general district court shall  
10 have, within the limits of the territory it serves, civil jurisdiction as follows:11 (1) Exclusive original jurisdiction of any claim to specific personal property or to any debt, fine or  
12 other money, or to damages for breach of contract or for injury done to property, real or personal, or for  
13 any injury to the person, ~~which~~ *that* would be recoverable by action at law or suit in equity, when the  
14 amount of such claim does not exceed \$3,000 exclusive of interest and any attorney's fees contracted for  
15 in the instrument, and concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts having jurisdiction in such territory  
16 of any such claim when the amount thereof exceeds \$3,000 but does not exceed \$15,000, exclusive of  
17 interest and any attorney's fees contracted for in the instrument. However, this \$15,000 limit shall not  
18 apply with respect to distress warrants under the provisions of § 55-230 *nor shall it apply to cases*  
19 *involving liquidated damages for violations of vehicle weight limits pursuant to § 46.2-1135.*20 (2) Jurisdiction to try and decide attachment cases when the amount of the plaintiff's claim does not  
21 exceed \$15,000 exclusive of interest and any attorney's fees contracted for in the instrument.22 (3) Jurisdiction of actions of unlawful entry or detainer as provided in Article 13 (§ 8.01-124 et seq.)  
23 of Chapter 3 of Title 8.01, and in Chapter 13 (§ 55-217 et seq.) of Title 55, and the maximum  
24 jurisdictional limits prescribed in subdivision (1) shall not apply to any claim for damages sustained or  
25 rent proved to be owing where the premises were used by the occupant primarily for business,  
26 commercial or agricultural purposes.27 (4) Except where otherwise specifically provided, all jurisdiction, power and authority over any civil  
28 action or proceeding conferred upon any general district court judge or magistrate under or by virtue of  
29 any provisions of the Code of Virginia.30 (5) Jurisdiction to try and decide suits in interpleader involving personal property where the amount  
31 of money or value of the property is not more than the maximum jurisdictional limits of the general  
32 district court. The action shall be brought in accordance with the procedures for interpleader as set forth  
33 in § 8.01-364. However, the general district court shall not have any power to issue injunctions. Actions  
34 in interpleader may be brought by either the stakeholder or any of the claimants. The initial pleading  
35 shall be either by motion for judgment or by warrant in debt. The initial pleading shall briefly set forth  
36 the circumstances of the claim and shall name as defendant all parties in interest who are not parties  
37 plaintiff.38 (6) Jurisdiction to try and decide any cases pursuant to § 2.2-3713 of the Virginia Freedom of  
39 Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.), for writs of mandamus or for injunctions.40 (7) Concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts having jurisdiction in such territory to adjudicate  
41 habitual offenders pursuant to the provisions of Article 9 (§ 46.2-355.1 et seq.) of Chapter 3 of Title  
42 46.2.43 (8) ~~(Effective October 1, 2001)~~ Jurisdiction to try and decide cases alleging a civil violation  
44 described in § 18.2-76.

ENROLLED

HB362ER