

Department of Planning and Budget 2002 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB924

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☒ Engrossed
Second House ☒ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Joannou

3. Committee S Court of Justice

4. Title Exclusive original jurisdiction of general district courts.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Raises the original jurisdictional amount of cases in the general district court from \$3,000 to \$4,500. Additionally, the bill allows for a court to find an appellant indigent and therefore waive the bond on appeal to the circuit court.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Tentative, see Item 8 below.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications: In raising the limit for the exclusive original civil jurisdiction of general court from \$3,000 to \$4,500, the legislation also raises the threshold for the removal of cases from general district court to circuit court by the same increase. While this legislation could result in the shift in the number of cases from the circuit court to the general district courts, the number of additional cases will be a relatively small number. According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, past adjustments of these jurisdictional amounts only resulted in a minor impact on the caseload of the general district court or the circuit court.

There will be fewer cases removed from general district court to circuit court and more cases adjudicated in general district court. The Supreme Court's staffing model, which predicts how many judges and clerical staff are needed in district courts already takes into account those cases filed in general district court and removed to circuit court.

HB924 also permits the judge to waive the requirement for an appeal bond when an indigent appellant appeals from general district court to circuit court.

Neither portion of this legislation should have an appreciable impact on the judiciary.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: The court system

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date: 02/08/02/TMB

Document: F:\tmb\leg02\hb924E.doc