

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1995 SESSION

CHAPTER 589

An Act to amend and reenact § 16.1-122.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to small claims courts.

[H 2597]

Approved March 24, 1995

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 16.1-122.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 16.1-122.1. Small claims court; designated.

Each general district court in any judicial district encompassing (i) a county having a population in excess of 300,000, and (ii) beginning on July 1, 1991, and continuing through June 30, 1993, a county having a population of more than 152,000 and less than 153,000, according to the 1980 United States Census shall have a small claims division which shall be designated the small claims court. The general district court in the following jurisdictions may establish a small claims division to be designated a small claims court:

- 1. Fairfax County;*
- 2. Arlington County;*
- 3. Culpeper County;*
- 4. Stafford County;*
- 5. Lancaster County;*
- 6. Albemarle County; and*
- 7. City of Hopewell.*

Additionally, the governing body of any other county or city may adopt an ordinance or a resolution seeking to establish within the general district court in its locality a small claims division, which shall be designated a small claims court. In the event that two localities share a general district court, a small claims division shall not be established unless the governing bodies in both localities adopt such ordinance or resolution.

An ordinance adopted pursuant to the authority of this section shall not become effective. A small claims court shall not be created in localities requesting such a court unless the General Assembly adopts an act specifically authorizing creation of a small claims division for the locality, or the localities which share a general district court.