

section on Consumer Protection relating to sale, notice, replevin, and related matters; clarifying provisions as to verdicts and judgment in detinue actions; and providing generally for improved procedures in replevin, detinue, and distress, including replevy of aircraft by owner and replevy of motor vehicle, or part thereof, by owner.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 145(c) of Article 26 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Cumulative Supplement), title "Courts," subtitle "District Courts," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

145.

(c) (1) The District Court [shall have] HAS jurisdiction at law in all cases for the enforcement of contracts and to obtain redress for wrongs where the debt or damages claimed do not exceed [five thousand dollars (\$5,000[.00])]; in actions [or] OF replevin [where] REGARDLESS OF the value of the thing in controversy [does not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00)]; in all cases of attachment on original process where the sum claimed does not exceed [five thousand dollars (\$5,000[.00])]; in all other civil action over which the People's Court of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Montgomery or Wicomico County had jurisdiction prior to [the effective date of this section in each such county] JULY 5, 1971, and where the amount in controversy does not exceed [five thousand dollars (\$5,000[.00])]; and in all actions involving landlord and tenant, distraint, forcible entry and detainer and grantee suits regardless of the amount involved.

(2) In all those civil actions listed in paragraph (1) hereof, the District Court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction where the amount in controversy does not exceed [two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500[.00])]; provided that the court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction in actions involving landlord and tenant, distraint, forcible entry and detainer [and] grantee suits AND ACTIONS OF REPLEVIN regardless of the amount involved. Jurisdiction shall be concurrent with the circuit court in all cases where the amount in controversy exceeds [two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500[.00])], but does not exceed [five thousand dollars (\$5,000[.00])].

(3) (i) The venue provisions of Article 75, § 75 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1957 Edition, as amended, shall apply to all civil actions in the District Court.

(ii) In [all] A civil [actions where] ACTION IN WHICH the amount in controversy exceeds [five hundred dollars (\$500[.00])] either party [shall have a right] MAY within [such] THE time [as] prescribed by rule, [to] demand a trial by jury in which event the case shall be transmitted [forthwith] to the circuit court in the county in which the cause of action arose or was filed, or to the Superior Court of Baltimore City if the cause of action arose or was filed in the City of Baltimore.

(III) IN A REPLEVIN ACTION IN WHICH A DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL IS FILED:

(1) THE DISTRICT COURT HAS JURISDICTION TO CONDUCT THE HEARING ON THE SHOW CAUSE ORDER PRIOR TO ISSUING THE WRIT, TO ENFORCE ANY INJUNCTION ISSUED BY IT IN THE ACTION, AND TO ISSUE, RENEW AND RECEIVE RETURNS UPON THE WRIT OF REPLEVIN; AND