

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1998.

Approved April 28, 1998.

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**CHAPTER 322**

**(House Bill 192)**

AN ACT concerning

**Jury Trials - Civil Proceedings**

FOR the purpose of providing that the right to a jury trial in civil proceedings preserved by Article 23 of the Declaration of Rights applies when the amount in controversy exceeds \$10,000; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland  
Declaration of Rights  
Article 23

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, (Three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses concurring), That it be proposed that the Constitution of Maryland read as follows:

**Declaration of Rights**

Article 23.

In the trial of all criminal cases, the Jury shall be the Judges of Law, as well as of fact, except that the Court may pass upon the sufficiency of the evidence to sustain a conviction.

The right of trial by Jury of all issues of fact in civil proceedings in the several Courts of Law in this State, where the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of [five thousand dollars] \$10,000, shall be inviolably preserved.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly determines that the amendment to the Constitution of Maryland proposed by this Act affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not apply.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in November, 1998 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendments" and "Against