

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 618

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the jurisdiction of and representation in the county,
justice, and small claims courts in civil matters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 26.042, Government Code,
is amended to read as follows:

(a) A county court has concurrent jurisdiction with the
justice courts in civil cases in which the matter in controversy
exceeds \$200 in value but does not exceed \$10,000 [~~\$5,000~~],
exclusive of interest.

SECTION 2. Section 27.031, Government Code, is amended by
amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as
follows:

(a) In addition to the jurisdiction and powers provided by
the constitution and other law, the justice court has original
jurisdiction of:

(1) civil matters in which exclusive jurisdiction is
not in the district or county court and in which the amount in
controversy is not more than \$10,000 [~~\$5,000~~], exclusive of
interest;

(2) cases of forcible entry and detainer; and

(3) foreclosure of mortgages and enforcement of liens
on personal property in cases in which the amount in controversy is
otherwise within the justice court's jurisdiction.

1 (c) A corporation need not be represented by an attorney in
2 justice court.

3 SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 28.003, Government Code,
4 is amended to read as follows:

5 (a) The small claims court has concurrent jurisdiction with
6 the justice court in actions by any person for the recovery of money
7 in which the amount involved, exclusive of costs, does not exceed
8 \$10,000 [~~\$5,000~~].

9 SECTION 4. This Act applies only to a cause of action filed
10 on or after the effective date of this Act. A cause of action filed
11 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in
12 effect at the time the cause of action was filed, and that law is
13 continued in effect for that purpose.

14 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.