

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5027

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SYNOPSIS AS ENACTED

Brief Description: Raising the jurisdictional limit for small claims departments.

SPONSORS: Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Nelson, Rasmussen and Thorsness).

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BACKGROUND:

Small claims courts are a distinct department of the district court system. The primary purpose of small claims courts is to simplify the court process for civil disputes of claims that do not exceed \$2,000. Small claims proceedings are generally conducted in an informal manner without formal pleadings. Parties may be represented by their attorneys with the consent of the district court judge.

SUMMARY:

The jurisdiction of small claims courts is increased to \$2,500.

A corporation plaintiff may not be represented by an attorney or paralegal in small claims court.

VOTES ON FINAL PASSAGE:

Senate	40	2
House	97	0

EFFECTIVE: July 28, 1991