

# HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

## HB 2522

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**Title:** An act relating to district court jurisdiction.

**Brief Description:** Modifying court jurisdiction.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Lantz, McDonald, Constantine, Lambert, Dickerson, Barlean, Hurst and Carrell.

### Brief Summary of Bill

- The \$35,000 jurisdictional limit in district court is raised to \$50,000.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**Staff:** Bill Perry (786-7123).

#### Background:

Jurisdiction of the district courts is controlled by constitutional and statutory provisions. The constitution gives the superior courts exclusive jurisdiction over some matters, such as actions affecting the title of real property and felony crimes, but generally allows the Legislature to set the jurisdiction of the district courts.

Superior and district courts have concurrent jurisdiction over many kinds of civil cases. For these kinds of cases parties may choose which court to use.

Current law enumerates several classes of cases that may be heard in district court. However, all of these are limited to actions in which the amount in controversy does not exceed \$35,000.

This jurisdictional limit has been set over the past 40 years by the Legislature as follows:

1961 - \$500  
1965 - \$1,000  
1979 - \$3,000  
1981 - \$7,500  
1984 - \$10,000  
1991 - \$25,000  
1997 - \$35,000

**Summary of Bill:**

The dollar limit on the jurisdiction of district courts is raised from \$35,000 to \$50,000.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested January 19, 2000.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Office of Program Research