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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 2189

02/27/2023 Authored by Niska, Scott, Myers and Carroll
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to judiciary; modifying the jurisdictional limit for conciliation court claims
1.3 by increasing the monetary value of claims to \$20,000; amending Minnesota
1.4 Statutes 2022, section 491A.01, subdivision 3a.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 491A.01, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 3a. Jurisdiction; general. (a) Except as provided in subdivisions 4 and 5, the
1.8 conciliation court has jurisdiction to hear, conciliate, try, and determine civil claims if the
1.9 amount of money or property that is the subject matter of the claim does not exceed: (1)
1.10 \$15,000 \$20,000; or (2) \$4,000, if the claim involves a consumer credit transaction.

1.11 (b) "Consumer credit transaction" means a sale of personal property, or a loan arranged
1.12 to facilitate the purchase of personal property, in which:

1.13 (1) credit is granted by a seller or a lender who regularly engages as a seller or lender
1.14 in credit transactions of the same kind;

1.15 (2) the buyer is a natural person;

1.16 (3) the claimant is the seller or lender in the transaction; and

1.17 (4) the personal property is purchased primarily for a personal, family, or household
1.18 purpose and not for a commercial, agricultural, or business purpose.

1.19 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision and subdivisions 5 to 11, the
1.20 territorial jurisdiction of conciliation court is coextensive with the county in which the court
1.21 is established. The summons in a conciliation court action under subdivisions 6 to 10 may
1.22 be served anywhere in the state, and the summons in a conciliation court action under

2.1 subdivision 7, paragraph (b), may be served outside the state in the manner provided by  
2.2 law. The court administrator shall serve the summons in a conciliation court action by first  
2.3 class mail, except that if the amount of money or property that is the subject of the claim  
2.4 exceeds \$2,500, the summons must be served by the plaintiff by certified mail, and service  
2.5 on nonresident defendants must be made in accordance with applicable law or rule.  
2.6 Subpoenas to secure the attendance of nonparty witnesses and the production of documents  
2.7 at trial may be served anywhere within the state in the manner provided by law.

2.8 When a court administrator is required to summon the defendant by certified mail under  
2.9 this paragraph, the summons may be made by personal service in the manner provided in  
2.10 the Rules of Civil Procedure for personal service of a summons of the district court as an  
2.11 alternative to service by certified mail.