

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Beyer, Kruse, Prozanski, Walker, Burdick
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Miranda Plummer, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the small claims department of circuit courts to hear actions where the amount or value claimed in the action does not exceed \$7,500.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Domestic abuse provision
- Previous increases in small claims limitation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Presently, the small claims department may hear cases not exceeding \$5,000. The 1997 version of the statute authorized the small claims department to hear cases not exceeding \$3,500. Prior to that, the limit was \$2,500.

In situations where a person is suing for losses as a result of domestic abuse, the limitation for small claims court is currently \$3,500. HB 2316 raises that to \$7,500 as well. California's small claims court limitation is already \$7,500. Washington has a bill pending that would similarly increase the limitation to \$7,500.