# Department of Planning and Budget
## 2025 General Assembly Session
### State Fiscal Impact Statement

**PUBLISHED: 1/31/2025 8:58 AM** **ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** SB1291 **Patron:** Peake
**Bill Title:** General district courts; jurisdictional limits.

**Bill Summary:** Increases from $25,000 to $50,000 the maximum civil jurisdictional limit of general district courts for all civil actions. Under current law, only civil actions for personal injury or wrongful death have a maximum jurisdictional limit of $50,000. This bill is a recommendation of the Boyd-Graves Conference.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No **Items Impacted:** N/A
**Explanation:** N/A

**Fiscal Summary:** The Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES) expects to be able to cover any fiscal impact this bill may have using existing resources.

**Fiscal Analysis:** According to data provided by OES, the case types that would be affected are contract action, detinue, garnishment, general tort liability, motor vehicle, and product liability. Available records indicate that 2,739 of such cases that had an ad damnum amount between $25,000 and $50,000 were filed in circuit courts in 2022, and 3,226 of such cases were filed in 2023. Therefore, the estimated average number of cases that would be heard annually in general district court instead of circuit court is 2,983.

In calendar year 2024, general district courts heard 662,867 civil cases. Thus, this bill is expected to increase the civil case workload of district courts by 0.4 percent. OES expects that the minimal workload impact on general district courts can be absorbed with existing resources.

**Other:** None