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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**

**No. 1541** Session of  
2001

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INTRODUCED BY GANNON, M. BAKER, BELFANTI, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI,  
CASORIO, L. I. COHEN, CORRIGAN, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DALLY,  
DeLUCA, FAIRCHILD, FLICK, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, HALUSKA,  
HERMAN, HORSEY, JAMES, KIRKLAND, McCALL, MELIO, PRESTON,  
READSHAW, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SCRIMENTI, SOLOBAY, STABACK,  
STEELMAN, STERN, WATSON, C. WILLIAMS, WILT, WOGAN AND  
YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 8, 2001

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 8, 2001

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for  
3 jurisdiction and venue.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 1515(a)(3) of Title 42 of the  
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 1515. Jurisdiction and venue.

9 (a) Jurisdiction.--Except as otherwise prescribed by general  
10 rule adopted pursuant to section 503 (relating to reassignment  
11 of matters), district justices shall, under procedures  
12 prescribed by general rule, have jurisdiction of all of the  
13 following matters:

14 \* \* \*

15 (3) Civil claims, except claims against a Commonwealth  
16 party as defined by section 8501 (relating to definitions),

1 wherein the sum demanded does not exceed [~~\$8,000~~] \$15,000,  
2 exclusive of interest and costs, in the following classes of  
3 actions:

4 (i) In assumpsit, except cases of real contract  
5 where the title to real estate may be in question.

6 (ii) In trespass, including all forms of trespass  
7 and trespass on the case.

8 (iii) For fines and penalties by any government  
9 agency.

10 A plaintiff may waive a portion of his claim of more than  
11 [~~\$8,000~~] \$15,000 so as to bring the matter within the  
12 monetary jurisdiction of a district justice. Such waiver  
13 shall be revoked automatically if the defendant appeals the  
14 final order of the district justice or when the judgment is  
15 set aside upon certiorari.

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.