



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**SMALL CLAIMS COURT**

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**APR 17 1989**

House Bill 4504      *Mich. State Law Library*  
Sponsor: Rep. Perry Bullard  
Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 3-28-89

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4504 AS INTRODUCED 3-22-89**

The bill would make the following amendments to the portion of the Revised Judicature Act that deals with small claims court:

**\*\*The small claims court limit would be increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000.**

**\*\* If a defendant was present at the time a judgement was entered requiring him or her to pay a sum of money, the judge would have to require the defendant to disclose in writing, under oath, the amount and location of his or her assets. If the defendant was not present, the court would notify the defendant that failure to pay could result in having to appear for an examination of his or her assets. (The bill would delete language that requires this latter notification to be part of the judgement; the judgement would continue to have to warn that failure to pay could result in an execution against one's property.)**

**\*\*Actions under the Consumer Protection Act would explicitly be allowed in small claims court.**

**\*\*At present, the affidavit filed to commence a small claims action informs both parties of the right to removal before trial to general civil jurisdiction and of the rights waived if they choose to remain in small claims division. The bill would in addition require the district judge or magistrate to inform both parties, orally or in writing, of these matters prior to commencing a small claims trial.**

The bill would take effect July 1, 1990.

MCL 600.8401 et al.

House Bill 4504 (3-28-89)