

The House Committee on Judiciary offers the following substitute to HB 705:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, so as to
2 increase the general jurisdictional limits for certain civil claims in magistrate courts; to
3 increase the filing fee for filings in magistrate courts; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by revising
8 paragraph (5) of Code Section 15-10-2, relating to the general jurisdiction of magistrate
9 courts, as follows:

10 "(5) The trial of civil claims ~~including garnishment and attachment~~ alleging tort, in which
11 exclusive jurisdiction is not vested in the superior court and the amount demanded or the
12 value of the property claimed does not exceed ~~\$15,000.00~~ \$25,000.00, and the trial of all
13 other civil claims, including garnishment and attachment, in which exclusive jurisdiction
14 is not vested in the superior court and the amount demanded or the value of the property
15 claimed does not exceed \$15,000.00, provided that no prejudgment attachment may be
16 granted;"

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 15-10-80, relating
19 to filing fees in magistrate courts, as follows:

20 "(a) Upon filing any civil action the plaintiff shall pay a filing deposit as established by
21 local court rule, ~~not to exceed \$22.00~~ which shall cover all costs of the action except
22 service of process, as follows:-

23 (1) Where the amount of the claim does not exceed \$15,000.00, the filing deposit shall
24 not exceed \$22.00; and

25 (2) Where the amount of the claim is \$15,000.00 or greater, the filing deposit shall not
26 exceed \$40.00."

27 **SECTION 3.**

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.