

By: Representative Watson

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 973
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-9-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 RAISE THE JURISDICTIONAL AMOUNT FOR COUNTY COURTS FROM \$75,000.00
3 TO \$200,000.00; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-9-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 9-9-21. (1) The jurisdiction of the county court shall be
8 as follows: It shall have jurisdiction concurrent with the
9 justice court in all matters, civil and criminal of which the
10 justice court has jurisdiction; and it shall have jurisdiction
11 concurrent with the circuit and chancery courts in all matters of
12 law and equity wherein the amount of value of the thing in
13 controversy shall not exceed, exclusive of costs and interest, the
14 sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00), and the
15 jurisdiction of the county court shall not be affected by any
16 setoff, counterclaim or cross-bill in such actions where the
17 amount sought to be recovered in such setoff, counterclaim or
18 cross-bill exceeds Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00).
19 Provided, however, the party filing such setoff, counterclaim or
20 cross-bill which exceeds Two Hundred Thousand Dollars
21 (\$200,000.00) shall give notice to the opposite party or parties
22 as provided in Section 13-3-83, and on motion of all parties filed
23 within twenty (20) days after the filing of such setoff,
24 counterclaim or cross-bill, the county court shall transfer the
25 case to the circuit or chancery court wherein the county court is
26 situated and which would otherwise have jurisdiction. It shall
27 have exclusively the jurisdiction heretofore exercised by the



28 justice court in the following matters and causes: namely,
29 eminent domain, the partition of personal property, and actions of
30 unlawful entry and detainer, provided that the actions of eminent
31 domain and unlawful entry and detainer may be returnable and
32 triable before the judge of said court in vacation.

33 (2) In the event of the establishment of a county court by
34 an agreement between two (2) or more counties as provided in
35 Section 9-9-3, it shall be lawful for such court sitting in one
36 (1) county to act upon any and all matters of which it has
37 jurisdiction as provided by law arising in the other county under
38 the jurisdiction of said court.

39 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
40 and after July 1, 2003.

