

By: Representative Fillingane

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 723

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-81 AND 9-11-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE
2 OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THE JURISDICTION OF CIRCUIT AND JUSTICE COURT;
3 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-7-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 9-7-81. The circuit court shall have original jurisdiction
8 in all actions when the principal of the amount in controversy
9 exceeds Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), and of all
10 other actions and causes, matters and things arising under the
11 constitution and laws of this state which are not exclusively
12 cognizable in some other court, and such appellate jurisdiction as
13 prescribed by law. Such court shall have power to hear and
14 determine all prosecutions in the name of the state for treason,
15 felonies, crimes, and misdemeanors, except such as may be
16 exclusively cognizable before some other court; and said court
17 shall have all the powers belonging to a court of oyer and
18 terminer and general jail delivery, and may do and perform all
19 other acts properly pertaining to a circuit court of law.

20 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-11-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
21 amended as follows:

22 9-11-9. Justice court judges shall have exclusive
23 jurisdiction of all actions for the recovery of debts or damages
24 or personal property, where the principal of the debt, the amount
25 of the demand, or the value of the property sought to be recovered
26 shall not exceed Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00).

27 The justice court judges shall have no pecuniary interest in
28 the outcome of any action once suit has been filed.

29 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
30 and after July 1, 2004.