

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## House Judiciary Committee

### Sectional Analysis CSHB 227 (JUD)

**"An Act increasing the jurisdictional limit for small claims and for magistrates from \$7,500 to \$10,000; increasing the jurisdictional limit of district courts in certain civil cases from \$50,000 to \$100,000; expanding the jurisdiction of district courts; and amending Rule 11(a)(4), Alaska District Court Rules of Civil Procedure, relating to service of process for small claims."**

**Section 1** increases the jurisdictional limit of district courts from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

**Sections 2** increases the jurisdictional limits of the small claims court from \$7500 to \$10,000.

**Section 3** extends the jurisdiction of the district court to include claims for false imprisonment, libel, slander and malicious prosecution.

**Section 4** increases the jurisdictional amount for claims heard by magistrates from \$7500 to \$10,000.

**Section 5** precludes magistrates from hearing cases brought under the expanded small claims jurisdiction over out-of-state defendants provided for in Section 6 of the bill. Magistrates will continue to be able to hear claims against out-of-state defendants only under the landlord-tenant act or in accordance with the [AS 09.05.20](#) relating to service of process on nonresident owner or operator of motor vehicle.

**Section 6** amends [District Court Rule 11](#)(a) to allow suits in small claims court against out-of-state defendants under traditional long-arm jurisdictional authority.

**Section 7** provides that sections 5 and 6 of the bill only take effect if the court rule change in section 6 of the bill receives the two-thirds majority vote of each house required by [art. IV, sec. 15 of the Alaska Constitution](#).