

April 15, 1999

**S 955. PROPER TRIAL DIVISION/COUNSEL FEES.** *TO RAISE THE AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY THAT DETERMINES THE PROPER DIVISION FOR TRIAL OF CIVIL ACTIONS AND TO ALLOW COUNSEL FEES AS PART OF COSTS IN CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS.* Amends GS 7A-243 to increase from \$10,000 to \$20,000 the amount in controversy that determines whether a civil action should be tried in district court or in superior court. Amends GS 6-21.1 to make it applicable to specified actions for which proper trial division is district court (now, specified actions in which judgment for recovery of damages is \$10,000 or less). Effective Oct. 1, 1999; applies to civil actions commenced on or after that date.

**Intro. by Dalton.**

Ref. to Judiciary II

GS 7A, 6