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**Proposed Amendment to AB 100 to Section: 2.1.**  
***The Supreme Court shall adopt rules to provide for the establishment of a mandatory short trial program for civil cases in justice courts.***

In June of 2002 the Eighth Judicial District Court in Clark County adopted a new short trial program. The short jury trial program is a one day jury trial and an attempt to resolve smaller cases in a quicker and more economical manner. The short trial program in the current format is voluntary and alternative method of dispute resolution in civil cases where litigants agree to have their disputes heard by a jury of four. The smaller jury leads to quicker results, which requires a consensus of three of four of the jurors. The format of the short trial program places a three-hour time limitation on the individual litigants to complete their case.

Benefits of the short trial program are many. The cases are heard by Pro-Tempore Judges who are required to have 15 years of civil litigation experience. The cases are heard in just one day. The average jury trial in a small case takes three days. The cost of the Pro-Tempore Judge is paid for by the litigants and not the public. In Clark County eighty nine (89) cases have been stipulated into the short trial program since its inception. Thirty eight (38) cases or 62 % have settled. Twenty three (23) cases have been tried at virtually no cost to the taxpayer except for the use of a vacant courtroom. In addition, all twenty three (23) cases have been heard within six months of being placed into the program. In contrast, it takes much longer to get a trial date in District Court.

It is estimated that the average smaller civil case which is required to be tried in Clark County can cost each litigant anywhere from \$4000 to \$15,000 in expenses through trial. In addition, taxpayers are required to provide court rooms, judges, court clerks, bailiffs, court reporters and other support staff. However, in the short trial program this is not required. Thus, it is anticipated that the cost savings to the litigants and taxpayers over time will be substantial.

Lastly, the short trial program in its current format is user friendly, and as a result, it is anticipated that a litigant could represent him or her self since many of the strict evidentiary requirements are relaxed.