

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 230—COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(ON BEHALF OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL)

MARCH 1, 2007

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises certain provisions relating to the jurisdiction of justice courts. (BDR 1-519)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ***omitted material*** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to justice courts; expanding the jurisdiction of justice courts in criminal cases in which an arrest was made by a field agent or an inspector of the State Department of Agriculture; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law provides that in criminal cases, the jurisdiction of justice courts
2 extends to the limits of their respective counties with two exceptions. (NRS 4.370)
3 First, each justice court has jurisdiction of any violation of a regulation governing
4 vehicular traffic on an airport within the township in which the court is established.
5 Second, in the case of an arrest made by a member of the Nevada Highway Patrol,
6 the jurisdiction of the justice courts extends to the limits of their respective counties
7 and to the limits of all counties which have common boundaries with their
8 respective counties. This bill similarly expands the jurisdiction of justice courts by
9 providing that in the case of an arrest made by a field agent or an inspector of the
10 State Department of Agriculture, the jurisdiction of the justice courts extends to the
11 limits of their respective counties and to the limits of all counties which have
12 common boundaries with their respective counties. This bill also provides that if a
13 person is arrested by a field agent or inspector of the State Department of
14 Agriculture in the county in which the person resides, the justice of the peace of
15 that county has sole jurisdiction of the matter.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 4.370 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.370 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, justice courts have jurisdiction of the following civil actions and proceedings and no others except as otherwise provided by specific statute:

(a) In actions arising on contract for the recovery of money only, if the sum claimed, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$10,000.

(b) In actions for damages for injury to the person, or for taking, detaining or injuring personal property, or for injury to real property where no issue is raised by the verified answer of the defendant involving the title to or boundaries of the real property, if the damage claimed does not exceed \$10,000.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (l), in actions for a fine, penalty or forfeiture not exceeding \$10,000, given by statute or the ordinance of a county, city or town, where no issue is raised by the answer involving the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll or municipal fine.

(d) In actions upon bonds or undertakings conditioned for the payment of money, if the sum claimed does not exceed \$10,000, though the penalty may exceed that sum. Bail bonds and other undertakings posted in criminal matters may be forfeited regardless of amount.

(e) In actions to recover the possession of personal property, if the value of the property does not exceed \$10,000.

(f) To take and enter judgment on the confession of a defendant, when the amount confessed, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$10,000.

(g) Of actions for the possession of lands and tenements where the relation of landlord and tenant exists, when damages claimed do not exceed \$10,000 or when no damages are claimed.

(h) Of actions when the possession of lands and tenements has been unlawfully or fraudulently obtained or withheld, when damages claimed do not exceed \$10,000 or when no damages are claimed.

(i) Of suits for the collection of taxes, where the amount of the tax sued for does not exceed \$10,000.

(j) Of actions for the enforcement of mechanics' liens, where the amount of the lien sought to be enforced, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$10,000.

(k) Of actions for the enforcement of liens of owners of facilities for storage, where the amount of the lien sought to be enforced, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$10,000.



1 (l) In actions for a fine imposed for a violation of NRS 484.757.

2 (m) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, in any
3 action for the issuance of a temporary or extended order for
4 protection against domestic violence. A justice court does not have
5 jurisdiction in an action for the issuance of a temporary or extended
6 order for protection against domestic violence:

7 (1) In a county whose population is more than 100,000 and
8 less than 400,000;

9 (2) In any township whose population is 100,000 or more
10 located within a county whose population is more than 400,000; or

11 (3) If a party to the action is a party in another action pending
12 in the district court in which such an order may be granted by the
13 district court.

14 (n) In an action for the issuance of a temporary or extended
15 order for protection against harassment in the workplace pursuant to
16 NRS 33.200 to 33.360, inclusive.

17 (o) In small claims actions under the provisions of chapter 73 of
18 NRS.

19 (p) In actions to contest the validity of liens on mobile homes or
20 manufactured homes.

21 (q) In any action pursuant to NRS 200.591 for the issuance of a
22 protective order against a person alleged to be committing the crime
23 of stalking, aggravated stalking or harassment.

24 (r) In actions transferred from the district court pursuant to
25 NRS 3.221.

26 (s) In any action for the issuance of a temporary or extended
27 order pursuant to NRS 33.400.

28 2. The jurisdiction conferred by this section does not extend to
29 civil actions, other than for forcible entry or detainer, in which the
30 title of real property or mining claims or questions affecting the
31 boundaries of land are involved.

32 3. Justice courts have jurisdiction of all misdemeanors and no
33 other criminal offenses except as otherwise provided by specific
34 statute. Upon approval of the district court, a justice court may
35 transfer original jurisdiction of a misdemeanor to the district court
36 for the purpose of assigning an offender to a program established
37 pursuant to NRS 176A.250.

38 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 5 and 6, in
39 criminal cases the jurisdiction of justices of the peace extends to the
40 limits of their respective counties.

41 5. In the case of any arrest made by a member of the Nevada
42 Highway Patrol, the jurisdiction of the justices of the peace extends
43 to the limits of their respective counties and to the limits of all
44 counties which have common boundaries with their respective
45 counties.



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1 6. *In the case of any arrest made by a person designated by*
2 *the Director of the State Department of Agriculture as a field*
3 *agent or an inspector pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 561.225,*
4 *the jurisdiction of the justices of the peace extends to the limits of*
5 *their respective counties and to the limits of all counties which*
6 *have common boundaries with their respective counties, except*
7 *that if a person is arrested in a county in which he resides, the*
8 *justice of the peace of such county has sole jurisdiction of the*
9 *matter.*

10 7. Each justice court has jurisdiction of any violation of a
11 regulation governing vehicular traffic on an airport within the
12 township in which the court is established.

13 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

