

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1611

By: Osburn

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8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to civil procedure; amending 12 O.S.
10 2021, Section 1751, which relates to The Small Claims
11 Procedure Act; authorizing certain entities to
12 represent themselves in small claims actions; and
13 providing an effective date.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 2021, Section 1751, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1751. A. The following suits may be brought under the
18 small claims procedure:

19 1. Actions for the recovery of money based on contract or tort,
20 including subrogation claims, but excluding libel or slander, in
21 which the amount sought to be recovered, exclusive of attorney fees
22 and other court costs, does not exceed Ten Thousand Dollars
23 (\$10,000.00);
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1 2. Actions to replevy personal property the value of which does
2 not exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). If the claims for
3 possession of personal property and to recover money are pled in the
4 alternative, the joinder of claims is permissible if neither the
5 value of the property nor the total amount of money sought to be
6 recovered, exclusive of attorney fees and other costs, exceeds Ten
7 Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00); and

8 3. Actions in the nature of interpleader, as provided for in
9 Section 2022 of this title, in which the value of the money which is
10 the subject of such action does not exceed Ten Thousand Dollars
11 (\$10,000.00).

12 B. No action may be brought under the small claims procedure by
13 any collection agency, collection agent, or assignee of a claim,
14 except that an action may be brought against an insurer or third-
15 party administrator by a health care provider as that term is
16 defined in Section 6552 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes, who is
17 an assignee of benefits available under an accident and health
18 insurance policy, trust, plan, or contract.

19 C. In those cases which are uncontested:

20 1. Except as provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection, the
21 amount of attorney fees allowed shall not exceed ten percent (10%)
22 of the judgment;
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1 2. Upon application to the court supported by sufficient
2 documentation, the court may award attorney fees not to exceed
3 twenty-five percent (25%) of the judgment.

4 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the
5 amount of attorney fees awarded in contested cases. Further,
6 nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit an award
7 of attorney fees for the defense of an action brought under the
8 small claims procedure.

9 D. No action may be brought under the small claims procedure
10 for any alleged claim against any city, county or state agency, or
11 employee of a city, county or state agency, if the claim alleges
12 matters arising from incarceration, probation, parole or community
13 supervision.

14 E. No action by a plaintiff who is currently incarcerated in
15 any jail or prison in the state may be brought against any person or
16 entity under the small claims procedure.

17 F. A small claims affidavit shall include a statement
18 acknowledging that the plaintiff is disclaiming a right to a trial
19 by jury on the merits of the case.

20 G. In an action filed and tried under The Small Claims
21 Procedure Act or an action for forcible entry and detainer placed on
22 the small claims docket of the district court or assigned to the
23 small claims division pursuant to Section 1148.14 of this title,
24 parties that are corporations, limited liability companies,

1 partnerships, trusts, or other legal entities may appear by and
2 through a corporate officer, member, manager, partner, trustee, or
3 regular full-time employee who shall be authorized to execute the
4 statutory affidavits and other filings with the court and otherwise
5 proceed as any other party who is an individual representing
6 themselves.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY - CIVIL, dated
10 02/22/2024 - DO PASS, As Amended.
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