

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5027**

Chapter 71, Laws of 1991

52nd Legislature  
1991 Regular Session

SMALL CLAIMS COURT--JURISDICTION AND APPEARANCES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/28/91

Passed by the Senate February 11, 1991  
Yeas 40 Nays 2

JOEL PRITCHARD  
**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 18, 1991  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

JOE KING  
**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Approved May 3, 1991

BOOTH GARDNER  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Gordon Golob, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5027** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

GORDON A. GOLOB  
**Secretary**

FILED

May 3, 1991 - 10:07 a.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**



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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5027**

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Passed Legislature - 1991 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Nelson, Rasmussen and Thorsness).

Read first time January 30, 1991.

1            AN ACT Relating to jurisdiction of small claims departments; and  
2 amending RCW 12.40.010 and 12.40.080.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 12.40.010 and 1988 c 85 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            In every district court there shall be created and organized by the  
7 court a department to be known as the "small claims department of the  
8 district court". The small claims department shall have jurisdiction,  
9 but not exclusive, in cases for the recovery of money only if the  
10 amount claimed does not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars.

11           **Sec. 2.** RCW 12.40.080 and 1984 c 258 s 65 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13           No attorney at law, legal paraprofessional, nor any person other  
14 than the plaintiff and defendant, shall concern himself or herself or

1 in any manner interfere with the prosecution or defense of litigation  
2 in the small claims department without the consent of the judge of the  
3 district court. ((If)) A corporation plaintiff ((is)) may not be  
4 represented by an attorney at law, or legal paraprofessional(~~(, the~~  
5 ~~judge shall at the request of the defendant transfer the case to the~~  
6 ~~regular civil docket))~~). In the small claims department it shall not be  
7 necessary to summon witnesses, but the plaintiff and defendant in any  
8 claim shall have the privilege of offering evidence in their behalf by  
9 witnesses appearing at such hearing, and the judge may informally  
10 consult witnesses or otherwise investigate the controversy between the  
11 parties, and give judgment or make such orders as the judge may deem to  
12 be right, just and equitable for the disposition of the controversy.

Passed the Senate February 11, 1991.

Passed the House April 18, 1991.

Approved by the Governor May 3, 1991.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 3, 1991.