



2001 BILL

repeal cat.

1 AN ACT *to repeal* 814.04 (1) (b); *to amend* 799.01 (1) (c), 799.01 (1) (d) (intro.),
 2 799.01 (2), 812.34 (2) (a), 812.34 (2) (b) 1., 812.37 (1), 812.37 (2), 812.38 (1) (b),
 3 812.38 (2), 812.44 (3) (form) 3., 812.44 (4) (form) 1., 812.44 (4) (form) 3., 814.04
 4 (1) (a), 814.04 (2), 814.07, 815.18 (3) (k), 895.035 (2), 895.80 (1), 895.80 (2),
 5 895.80 (3) (b), 943.24 (3) (b), 943.24 (3) (c), 943.245 (3), 943.245 (4), 943.51 (3)
 6 and 943.51 (3m); *to repeal and recreate* 895.80 (3) (a) and 895.80 (4); and *to*
 7 *create* 218.04 (9j), 812.34 (2) (c), 895.08, 895.80 (3) (c) and 895.80 (6) of the
 8 statutes; **relating to:** parental liability for acts of their minor child, recovery
 9 of damages for certain criminal actions, increasing the jurisdictional amount
 10 in small claims court, garnishment, attorney fees, exemption from execution of
 11 accounts, civil actions by collection agencies, earnings garnishment, retail
 12 theft, and recovery in actions involving worthless checks.

This
Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill increases the jurisdictional limit in small claims actions from \$5,000 to \$10,000. ~~It also~~ results in a corresponding increase in the amount that the

except for actions based on negligence, which remain at the \$5,000 limit ✓

BILL

claims board pay^s a claimant without submitting a bill to the legislature ~~and~~ the amount a parent may have to pay for damages caused by his or her child.

but maintains the \$5,000 limit on

Current law provides for limited payment of attorney fees by the unsuccessful litigant to the successful litigant in all civil actions. In a civil action concerning money damages or property, the successful litigant is entitled to attorney fees based on the following schedule:

<u>Amount recovered / value of property</u>	<u>Fee</u>
\$1,000 or more	\$100
\$500 to \$999.99	\$ 50
\$200 to \$499.99	\$ 25
Under \$200	\$ 15

This bill changes the amount of attorney fees allowed in these cases as follows:

<u>Amount recovered / value of property</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Greater than \$10,000	\$500
\$1,000 to \$9,999.99	\$300
Under \$1,000	\$100

The bill also increases the amount of attorney fees recoverable in civil cases that do not involve money damages or property from a maximum of \$100 to a maximum of \$300.

Under current law, in civil cases certain disbursements, such as those made for the costs of certified copies of public papers or records, postage, and depositions, are recoverable by the successful litigant, but are limited to \$50 for each item. This bill expands the list of disbursements that are recoverable to include such items as overnight delivery and facsimile transmissions and increases the limit to \$100 for each item. The bill also increases the amount that a successful litigant may recover for the cost of each expert witness testifying on behalf of the successful litigant from \$100 to \$300 and for filing a motion from \$50 to \$300.

Under current law, the earnings exemption in earnings garnishment actions provides that a debtor's earnings are totally exempt if the debtor's income is below the poverty line or if the garnishment would cause that result. Under this bill, a debtor's earnings are totally exempt if the debtor's income is below the poverty line, but if the garnishment would result in the debtor's income being below the poverty line, the amount garnished is limited to the debtor's income in excess of the poverty line. The bill requires debtors who claim earnings exemptions to submit with their answer to the garnishment the schedules and worksheets that were given to them with the garnishment, plus any supporting documents. The bill restricts the exemption from execution for depository accounts to those depository accounts that are for the debtor's personal use.

Under current law, a person who suffers damage as a result of certain crimes against property may sue the person that caused the damage. Currently, the person may recover treble damages plus the costs of the investigation and litigation. Under the bill, the person may recover his or her actual damages, including the value of the

BILL

damaged property, the costs of the investigation and litigation, and the value of the time spent by an employee, and exemplary damages of not more than three times the amount of actual damages. Any recovery is reduced by any amount received as restitution.

Current law provides that the total amount a person may receive for exemplary damages and attorney fees in an action to recover damages resulting from the issuance of a worthless check or retail theft is limited to \$500. This bill provides that the \$500 limit applies for each violation.

This bill allows licensed collection agencies to consolidate a creditor's accounts related to a particular debtor with those of other creditors related to that debtor and bring an action on behalf of those creditors against the debtor. The bill provides that the collection agency that brings the action is a real party in interest for purposes of maintaining the action under the rules of civil procedure. The bill requires the collection agency, when it brings an action consolidated on behalf of a number of creditors, to include the names of the creditors in the caption of the action.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 218.04 (9j) of the statutes is created to read:

2 218.04 (9j) CIVIL ACTION BY LICENSEE. A licensee may, after receiving
3 authorization from a creditor, consolidate the creditor's account or accounts relating
4 to a particular debtor with those of any other creditor or creditors relating to that
5 debtor and may bring an action on behalf of the creditor or creditors. A licensee that
6 brings an action under this subsection is the real party in interest under s. 803.01
7 (2) for purposes of maintaining an action. A licensee that brings an action under this
8 subsection shall comply with the caption requirements of s. 895.08.

9 **SECTION 2.** 799.01 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 799.01 (1) (c) *Replevins.* Actions for replevin under ss. 810.01 to 810.13 where
11 the value of the property claimed does not exceed ~~\$5,000~~ \$10,000.

12 **SECTION 3.** 799.01 (1) (d) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 799.01 (1) (d) *Other civil actions.* (intro.) Other civil actions where the amount
14 claimed is ~~\$5,000~~ \$10,000 or less, if the actions or proceedings are:

✓
Insert
3-1 →

BILL

1 **SECTION 4.** 799.01 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 799.01 (2) PERMISSIVE USE OF SMALL CLAIMS PROCEDURE. A taxing authority may
3 use the procedure in this chapter in an action to recover a tax from a person liable
4 for that tax where the amount claimed, including interest and penalties, is \$5,000
5 \$10,000 or less. This chapter is not the exclusive procedure for those actions.

6 **SECTION 5.** 812.34 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 812.34 (2) (a) Unless the court grants relief under s. 812.38 (2) or par. (b) or (c)
8 applies, 80% of the debtor's disposable earnings are exempt from garnishment under
9 this subchapter.

10 **SECTION 6.** 812.34 (2) (b) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

11 812.34 (2) (b) 1. The debtor's household income is below the poverty line, ~~or the~~
12 ~~garnishment would cause that result; or~~

13 **SECTION 7.** 812.34 (2) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

14 812.34 (2) (c) If the garnishment of 20% of the debtor's disposable income under
15 this subchapter would result in the debtor's household income being below the
16 poverty line, the amount of the garnishment is limited to the debtor's household
17 income in excess of the poverty line before the garnishment is in effect.

18 **SECTION 8.** 812.37 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 812.37 (1) Except as provided in s. 812.34 (1), the debtor may claim an
20 exemption under s. 812.34 (2) (b) or a limit to the garnishment under s. 812.34 (2)
21 (c), or may assert any defense to the earnings garnishment, by completing the answer
22 form and delivering or mailing it to the garnishee, along with the schedules and
23 worksheets provided under s. 812.35 (4) (b) and any other documents supporting his
24 or her answer, such as a wage statement, a court order regarding the payment of
25 support or a document showing the receipt of aid to families with dependent children,

BILL

1 relief funded by a relief block grant under ch. 49, relief provided by counties under
2 s. 59.53 (21), medical assistance, supplemental security income, food stamps, or
3 veterans benefits based on need under 38 USC 501 to 562 or s. 45.351 (1). The debtor
4 or debtor's spouse may file an answer or an amended answer and documentation at
5 any time before or during the effective period of the earnings garnishment.

6 **SECTION 9.** 812.37 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 812.37 (2) Whenever the garnishee receives a debtor's answer or amended
8 answer and the schedules, worksheets, and other documents, the garnishee shall
9 mail a copy of the answer, schedules, worksheets, and any other documents the
10 debtor included with the answer to the creditor by the end of the 3rd business day
11 after receiving the debtor's answer and documents, writing on that copy the date of
12 receipt of the answer and documents by the garnishee.

13 **SECTION 10.** 812.38 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 812.38 (1) (b) The debtor may file with the court a written petition for relief
15 from the earnings garnishment if the exemption percentage under s. 812.34 (2) (a)
16 is insufficient for the debtor to acquire the necessities of life for the debtor and his
17 or her dependents. The petition shall state with reasonable specificity the grounds
18 for the relief requested and shall include any additional information necessary to
19 support the petition.

20 **SECTION 11.** 812.38 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 812.38 (2) A motion or petition under sub. (1) may be made at any time during
22 the pendency of the earnings garnishment. Within 5 business days after a motion
23 or petition is filed under sub. (1), the court shall schedule the matter for a hearing
24 to be held as promptly as practicable. The court shall notify the parties of the time
25 and place of the hearing. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the court shall make

BILL**SECTION 11**

1 findings of fact and conclusions of law. If the debtor has failed to produce the
2 schedules and worksheets or other documents necessary to support a claim for
3 exemptions or other defenses, the court shall award the creditor his or her costs
4 related to the motion in an amount of not less than \$50. An award under this
5 subsection may not substitute for or replace an award made under sub. (3). The court
6 shall make such order as required by these findings and conclusions. If the order
7 permits the garnishment to proceed, the date on which the order is served upon the
8 garnishee shall substitute for the original date of service of the garnishment upon
9 the garnishee under s. 812.35 (3) for the purpose of determining any 13-week period
10 under s. 812.35 (5) or (6). A court order shall bind the garnishee from the time the
11 order is served upon him or her.

12 **SECTION 12.** 812.44 (3) (form) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

13 812.44 (3) (form) 3. Whenever you receive a debtor's answer form from the
14 debtor, mail a copy of the answer form and any documents the debtor included with
15 the answer form to the creditor by the end of the 3rd business day after receipt of that
16 form. Include the date you received the answer form on the copy sent to the creditor.

17 **SECTION 13.** 812.44 (4) (form) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

18 812.44 (4) (form) 1. Your household income is below the federal poverty level,
19 ~~or this garnishment would cause that to happen.~~ See the enclosed schedules and
20 worksheet to determine if you qualify for this exemption.

21 **SECTION 14.** 812.44 (4) (form) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

22 812.44 (4) (form) 3. At least 25% of your disposable earnings are assigned by
23 court order for support.

BILL

1 If the garnishment of 20% of your disposable income would result in the income
2 of your household being below the poverty line, the garnishment is limited to the
3 amount of your household's income in excess of the poverty line.

4 If you qualify for a complete exemption or for a limit on the amount of the
5 garnishment to the amount that your household's income exceeds the poverty line,
6 you must give or mail a copy of the enclosed debtor's answer form to the garnishee,
7 along with the schedules and worksheets and any other documents supporting your
8 answer, such as a wage statement, a court order regarding the payment of support,
9 or a document showing the receipt of any of the benefits listed under paragraph 2
10 above in order to receive that increased exemption.

11 If your circumstances change while the garnishment is in effect, you may file
12 a new answer at any time.

13 If you do not qualify for a complete exemption, but you will not be able to acquire
14 the necessities of life for yourself and your dependents if your earnings are reduced
15 by this earnings garnishment, you may ask the court in which this earnings
16 garnishment was filed to increase your exemption or grant you other relief.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE**CONSULT AN ATTORNEY**

17 If you have earnings that are being garnisheed that are exempt or subject to a
18 defense, the sooner you file your answer or seek relief from the court, the sooner such
19 relief can be provided. This earnings garnishment affects your earnings in pay
20 periods beginning within 13 weeks after it was served on the garnishee. You may
21 agree in writing with the creditor to extend it for additional 13-week periods until
22 the debt is paid.
23 the debt is paid.
24 the debt is paid.

PENALTIES

BILL**SECTION 14**

1 If you wrongly claim an exemption or defense in bad faith, or if the creditor
2 wrongly objects to your claim in bad faith, the court may order the person who acted
3 in bad faith to pay court costs, actual damages and reasonable attorney fees.

4 **SECTION 15.** 814.04 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 814.04 (1) (a) When the amount recovered or the value of the property involved
6 is ~~\$1,000 or over~~ greater than the maximum amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d),
7 attorney fees shall be \$100 \$500; when it is equal to or less than \$1,000 and is \$500
8 or over, \$50 the maximum amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d), but is \$1,000 or more,
9 attorney fees shall be \$300; when it is less than \$500 and is \$200 or over, \$25; and
10 when it is less than \$200, \$15 \$1,000, attorney fees shall be \$100. In all other cases
11 in which there is no amount recovered or that do not involve property, attorney fees
12 shall be \$300.

13 **SECTION 16.** 814.04 (1) (b) of the statutes is repealed.

14 **SECTION 17.** 814.04 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 814.04 (2) DISBURSEMENTS. All the necessary disbursements and fees allowed
16 by law; the compensation of referees; a reasonable disbursement for the service of
17 process or other papers in an action when the same are served by a person authorized
18 by law other than an officer, but the item may not exceed the authorized sheriff's fee
19 for the same service; amounts actually paid out for certified and other copies of
20 papers and records in any public office; postage, ~~telegraphing~~ photocopying,
21 telephoning, electronic communications, facsimile transmissions, and express or
22 overnight delivery; depositions including copies; plats, and photographs, not
23 exceeding ~~\$50~~ \$100 for each item; an expert witness fee not exceeding ~~\$100~~ \$300 for
24 each expert who testifies, exclusive of the standard witness fee and mileage which
25 shall also be taxed for each expert; and in actions relating to or affecting the title to

BILL

1 lands, the cost of procuring an abstract of title to the lands. Guardian ad litem fees
2 shall not be taxed as a cost or disbursement.

3 **SECTION 18.** 814.07 of the statutes is amended to read:

4 **814.07 Costs on motion.** Costs may be allowed on a motion, in the discretion
5 of the court or judge, not exceeding ~~\$50~~ \$300, and may be absolute or directed to abide
6 the event of the action.

7 **SECTION 19.** 815.18 (3) (k) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 815.18 (3) (k) *Depository accounts.* Depository accounts in the aggregate value
9 of \$1,000, but only to the extent that the account is for the debtor's personal use and
10 is not used as a business account.

11 **SECTION 20.** 895.035 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 895.035 (2) The parent or parents with custody of a minor child, in any
13 circumstances where he, she, or they may not be liable under the common law, are
14 liable for damages to property, for the cost of repairing or replacing property or
15 removing the marking, drawing, writing, or etching from property regarding a
16 violation under s. 943.017, for the value of unrecovered stolen property, or for
17 personal injury attributable to a wilful, malicious, or wanton act of the child. The
18 parent or parents with custody of their minor child are jointly and severally liable
19 with the child for the damages imposed under s. 895.80, 943.212, 943.24, 943.245,
20 or 943.51 for their child's violation of s. 943.01, 943.011, 943.012, 943.017, 943.20,
21 943.201, 943.21, 943.24, 943.26, 943.34, 943.395, 943.41, 943.50, or 943.61.

22 **SECTION 21.** 895.08 of the statutes is created to read:

23 **895.08 Suit by collection agency.** In addition to the requirements of ss.
24 801.09 (1), 801.095, 802.04 (1), and 815.05 (intro.), in an action brought by a
25 collection agency under s. 218.04 (9j), the collection agency shall include in the

Insert
9-6 →

Insert
9-21 →

BILL

1 caption, under its name, the names of the creditors on whose behalf the action is
2 brought.

3 **SECTION 22.** 895.80 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 895.80 (1) Any person who suffers damage or loss by reason of intentional
5 conduct that occurs on or after November 1, 1995, and that is prohibited under s.
6 943.01, 943.20, 943.21, 943.24, 943.26, 943.34, 943.395, 943.41, 943.50, or 943.61, or
7 by reason of intentional conduct that occurs on or after April 28, 1998, and that is
8 prohibited under s. 943.201, or by reason of intentional conduct that occurs on or
9 after the effective date of this subsection ... [revisor inserts date], and that is
10 prohibited under s. 943.011, 943.012, or 943.017, has a cause of action against the
11 person who caused the damage or loss.

12 **SECTION 23.** 895.80 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 895.80 (2) The burden of proof in a civil action under sub. (1) is with the person
14 who suffers damage or loss to prove ~~his or her case~~ a violation of s. 943.01, 943.011,
15 943.012, 943.017, 943.20, 943.201, 943.21, 943.24, 943.26, 943.34, 943.395, 943.41,
16 943.50, or 943.61 by a preponderance of the credible evidence. A conviction under
17 s. 943.01, 943.011, 943.012, 943.017, 943.20, 943.201, 943.21, 943.24, 943.26, 943.34,
18 943.395, 943.41, 943.50, or 943.61 is not required to bring an action, obtain a
19 judgment, or collect on that judgment under this section.

20 **SECTION 24.** 895.80 (3) (a) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

21 895.80 (3) (a) Actual damages, including the retail or replacement value of
22 damaged, used, or lost property, whichever is greater, for a violation of s. 943.01,
23 943.011, 943.012, 943.017, 943.20, 943.201, 943.21, 943.24, 943.26, 943.34, 943.395,
24 943.41, 943.50, or 943.61.

25 **SECTION 25.** 895.80 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

BILL

1 895.80 (3) (b) All costs of investigation and litigation that were reasonably
2 incurred, including the value of the time spent by any employee or agent of the
3 victim.

4 **SECTION 26.** 895.80 (3) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

5 895.80 (3) (c) Exemplary damages of not more than 3 times the amount
6 awarded under par. (a). No additional proof is required under this section for an
7 award of exemplary damages under this paragraph.

8 **SECTION 27.** 895.80 (4) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

9 895.80 (4) Any recovery under this section shall be reduced by the amount
10 recovered as restitution under ss. 800.093 and 973.20 and ch. 938.

11 **SECTION 28.** 895.80 (6) of the statutes is created to read:

12 895.80 (6) A person is not criminally liable under s. 943.30 for any action
13 brought in good faith under this section.

14 **SECTION 29.** 943.24 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 943.24 (3) (b) Proof that, at the time of issuance, the person did not have
16 sufficient funds or credit with the drawee and that the person failed within 5 days
17 after receiving written notice of nonpayment or dishonor to pay the check or other
18 order, delivered by regular mail to either the person's last-known address or the
19 address provided on the check or other order; or

20 **SECTION 30.** 943.24 (3) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 943.24 (3) (c) Proof that, when presentment was made within a reasonable
22 time, the person did not have sufficient funds or credit with the drawee and the
23 person failed within 5 days after receiving written notice of nonpayment or dishonor
24 to pay the check or other order, delivered by regular mail to either the person's
25 last-known address or the address provided on the check or other order.

Insert
11-13 →

BILL

SECTION 31

1 **SECTION 31.** 943.245 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 943.245 (3) Notwithstanding sub. (2) (c) and (d), the total amount awarded for
3 exemplary damages and reasonable attorney fees may not exceed \$500 for each
4 violation.

5 **SECTION 32.** 943.245 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 943.245 (4) At least 20 days prior to commencing an action, as specified in s.
7 801.02, under this section, the plaintiff shall notify the defendant, by mail, of his or
8 her intent to bring the action. Notice of nonpayment or dishonor shall be sent by the
9 payee or holder of the check or order to the drawer by regular mail supported by an
10 affidavit of service of mailing ~~or by a certificate of mailing obtained from the U.S. post~~
11 ~~office from which the mailing was made.~~ The plaintiff shall mail the notice to the
12 defendant's last-known address or to the address provided on the check or order. If
13 the defendant pays the check or order prior to the commencement of the action, he
14 or she is not liable under this section.

12-14
15 →

15 **SECTION 33.** 943.51 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 943.51 (3) Notwithstanding sub. (2) and except as provided in sub. (3m), the
17 total amount awarded for exemplary damages and reasonable attorney fees may not
18 exceed \$500 for each violation.

19 **SECTION 34.** 943.51 (3m) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 943.51 (3m) Notwithstanding sub. (2), the total amount awarded for
21 exemplary damages and reasonable attorney fees may not exceed \$300 for each
22 violation if the action is brought against a minor or against the parent who has
23 custody of their minor child for the loss caused by the minor.

12-23
24 →

24 **SECTION 35. Initial applicability.**

✓ 943.212(1),

BILL

1 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), this act first applies to actions
2 commenced ^{or claims made} on the effective date of this subsection.

3 (2) The treatment of sections 895.035 (2), 895.80 (1), (2), (3) (a), (b), and (c), (4),
4 and (6), ^{938.245(2)(a) 5. am. 938.32(1)(a) 1m., 938.45(1)(a) and (b) 11} 943.24 (3) (b) and (c), 943.245 (3), ~~and~~ (4), and 943.51 (3), ^{and (3m) of the} and (3m) of the
5 statutes first applies to violations committed on the effective date of this subsection.

SECTION 36. Effective date.

6
7 (1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 4th month beginning after
8 publication.

9 (END)

2001-2002 DRAFTING INSERT
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-1583/2ins
RPN:hmh:jf

insert anl:

1 insert 3-1:

2 SECTION 1. 16.007 (6) (a) ✓ of the statutes is amended to read:

3 16.007 (6) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), whenever the claims board by
4 unanimous vote finds that payment to a claimant of not more than the amount
5 specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d) ✓ is justified, it may order the amount that it finds justified
6 to be paid on its own motion without submission of the claim in bill form to the
7 legislature. The claim shall be paid on a voucher upon the certification of the
8 chairperson and secretary of the board, and shall be charged as provided in sub. (6m).

9 History: 1975 c. 397; 1977 c. 196 s. 130 (3); 1979 c. 34 s. 2102 (1) (c); 1981 c. 20; 1983 a. 368; 1985 a. 29; 1987 a. 27, 142; 1989 a. 31, 303; 1991 a. 269.

10 insert 4-5:

11 SECTION 2. 802.04 (1) ✓ of the statutes is amended to read:

12 802.04 (1) CAPTION. Every pleading shall contain a caption setting forth the
13 name of the court, the venue, the title of the action, the file number, and a designation
14 as in s. 802.01 (1). If a pleading contains motions, or an answer or reply contains
15 cross-claims or counterclaims, the designation in the caption shall state their
16 existence. In the complaint the caption of the action shall include the standardized
17 description of the case classification type and associated code number as approved
18 by the director of state courts, and the title of the action shall include the names and
19 addresses of all the parties, indicating the representative capacity, if any, in which
20 they sue or are sued and, in actions by or against a corporation, the corporate
21 existence and its domestic or foreign status shall be indicated. In pleadings other

↓

1 than the complaint, it is sufficient to state the name of the first party on each side
 2 with an appropriate indication of other parties. Every pleading commencing an
 3 action under s. 814.61 (1) (a) or 814.62 (1) or (2) and every complaint filed under s.
 4 814.61 (3) shall contain in the caption, if the action includes a claim for a money
 5 judgment, a statement of whether the amount claimed is greater than the amount
 6 under s. 799.01 (1) (d) or, if the claim is based on negligence, s. 799.01 (1) (e).

7 History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 Wis. 2d 585, 621 (1975); 1975 c. 218; Sup. Ct. Order, 171 Wis. 2d xix (1992); 1995 a. 27.

8 insert 9-6:

9 SECTION 3. 814.634 (1) (b) [✓] of the statutes is amended to read:

10 814.634 (1) (b) Notwithstanding par. (a), the clerk of circuit court shall charge
 11 and collect a \$100 court support services fee from any person, including any
 12 governmental unit as defined in s. 108.02 (17), paying a fee under s. 814.61 (1) (a) or
 13 (3) or 814.62 (1) or (2), if the party paying the fee seeks the recovery of money and
 14 the amount claimed exceeds the amount under s. 799.01 (1) (d) or, if the claim is based
 15 on negligence, s. 799.01 (1) (e).[✓]

16 History: 1993 a. 16; 1995 a. 27, 201, 417.

16 SECTION 4. 814.634 (1) (c) [✓] of the statutes is amended to read:

17 814.634 (1) (c) Notwithstanding par. (a), the clerk of circuit court shall charge
 18 and collect a \$30 court support services fee from any person, including any
 19 governmental unit as defined in s. 108.02 (17), paying a fee under s. 814.62 (3) (a) or
 20 (b), or paying a fee under s. 814.61 (1) (a) or (3) or 814.62 (1) or (2) if the party paying
 21 the fee seeks the recovery of money and the amount claimed is equal to or less than
 22 the amount under s. 799.01 (1) (d) or, if the claim is based on negligence, s. 799.01
 23 (1) (e).[✓]

24 History: 1993 a. 16; 1995 a. 27, 201, 417.

1 insert 9-21:

2 **SECTION 5.** 895.035 (4) ✓ of the statutes is amended to read:

3 895.035 (4) Except for recovery under sub. (4a) or for retail theft under s.
4 943.51, the maximum recovery under this section from any parent or parents may
5 not exceed ~~the amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d)~~ \$5,000 ✓ for damages resulting from
6 any one act of a juvenile in addition to taxable costs and disbursements and
7 reasonable attorney fees, as determined by the court under s. 814.04. ✓ If 2 or more
8 juveniles in the custody of the same parent or parents commit the same act the total
9 recovery under this section may not exceed ~~the amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d)~~
10 \$5,000, in addition to taxable costs and disbursements under s. 814.04. ✓ The
11 maximum recovery from any parent or parents for retail theft by their minor child
12 is established under s. 943.51.

13 History: 1985 a. 311; 1987 a. 27; 1993 a. 71; 1995 a. 24, 77, 262, 352; 1997 a. 27, 35, 205, 239, 252; 1999 a. 9, 32.

14 insert 11-13:

15 **SECTION 6.** 938.245 (2) (a) 5. ✓ am. of the statutes is amended to read:

16 938.245 (2) (a) 5. am. That the parent who has custody, as defined in s. 895.035
17 (1), of the juvenile make reasonable restitution for any damage to the property of
18 another, or for any actual physical injury to another excluding pain and suffering,
19 resulting from the act for which the deferred prosecution agreement is being entered
20 into. Except for recovery for retail theft under s. 943.51, the maximum amount of any
21 restitution ordered under this subd. 5. am. for damage or injury resulting from any
22 one act of a juvenile or from the same act committed by 2 or more juveniles in the
23 custody of the same parent may not exceed ~~the amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d)~~
24 \$5,000. ✓ Any order under this subd. 5. am. shall include a finding that the parent who

↓

1 has custody of the juvenile is financially able to pay the amount ordered and may
2 allow up to the date of the expiration of the deferred prosecution agreement for the
3 payment. Any recovery under this subd. 5. am. shall be reduced by the amount
4 recovered as restitution for the same act under subd. 5. a.

History: 1995 a. 77, 352, 448; 1997 a. 80, 181, 183, 205, 239, 292; 1999 a. 9, 32.

5 **SECTION 7. 938.32 (1t) (a) 1m.** of the statutes is amended to read:

6 938.32 (1t) (a) 1m. If the petition alleges that the juvenile has committed a
7 delinquent act that has resulted in damage to the property of another, or in actual
8 physical injury to another excluding pain and suffering, the judge or juvenile court
9 commissioner may require a parent who has custody, as defined in s. 895.035 (1), of
10 the juvenile, as a condition of the consent decree, to make reasonable restitution for
11 the damage or injury. Except for recovery for retail theft under s. 943.51, the
12 maximum amount of any restitution ordered under this subdivision for damage or
13 injury resulting from any one act of a juvenile or from the same act committed by 2
14 or more juveniles in the custody of the same parent may not exceed the amount
15 specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d) \$5,000. Any consent decree that includes a condition of
16 restitution by a parent who has custody of the juvenile shall include a finding that
17 the parent who has custody of the juvenile is financially able to pay the amount
18 ordered and may allow up to the date of the expiration of the consent decree for the
19 payment. Objection by the parent to the amount of damages claimed shall entitle the
20 parent to a hearing on the question of damages before the amount of restitution is
21 made part of the consent decree. Any recovery under this subdivision shall be
22 reduced by the amount recovered as restitution for the same act under subd. 1.

History: 1995 a. 77, 352, 448; 1997 a. 181, 183, 205, 239; 1999 a. 9, 32.

23 **SECTION 8. 938.45 (1r) (a)** of the statutes is amended to read:



1 938.45 (1r) (a) In a proceeding in which a juvenile has been found to have
2 committed a delinquent act or a civil law or ordinance violation that has resulted in
3 damage to the property of another, or in actual physical injury to another excluding
4 pain and suffering, the court may order a parent who has custody, as defined in s.
5 895.035 (1), of the juvenile to make reasonable restitution for the damage or injury.
6 Except for recovery for retail theft under s. 943.51, the maximum amount of any
7 restitution ordered under this paragraph for damage or injury resulting from any
8 one act of a juvenile or from the same act committed by 2 or more juveniles in the
9 custody of the same parent may not exceed ~~the amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d)~~
10 \$5,000.[✓] Any order under this paragraph shall include a finding that the parent who
11 has custody of the juvenile is financially able to pay the amount ordered and may
12 allow up to the date of expiration of the order for the payment. Any recovery under
13 this paragraph shall be reduced by the amount recovered as restitution for the same
14 act under s. 938.34 (5) or 938.343 (4).

History: 1995 a. 77; 1997 a. 35, 205.

15 **SECTION 9.** 938.45 (1r) (b) [✓] of the statutes is amended to read:

16 938.45 (1r) (b) In a proceeding in which the court has determined under s.
17 938.34 (8) or 938.343 (2) that the imposition of a forfeiture would be in the best
18 interest of the juvenile and in aid of rehabilitation, the court may order a parent who
19 has custody, as defined in s. 895.035 (1), of the juvenile to pay the forfeiture. The
20 amount of any forfeiture ordered under this paragraph may not exceed the amount
21 ~~specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d)~~ \$5,000.[✓] Any order under this paragraph shall include
22 a finding that the parent who has custody of the juvenile is financially able to pay
23 the amount ordered and shall allow up to 12 months after the date of the order for



1 the payment. Any recovery under this paragraph shall be reduced by the amount
2 recovered as a forfeiture for the same act under s. 938.34 (8) or 938.343 (2).

3 History: 1995 a. 77; 1997 a. 35, 205.

3 SECTION 10. 943.212 (7) ✓ of the statutes is amended to read:

4 943.212 (7) Nothing in this section precludes a plaintiff from bringing the
5 action under ch. 799 if the amount claimed is within the jurisdictional limits of s.
6 799.01 (1) (d) or, if the claim is based on negligence, s. 799.01 (1) (e). ✓

7 History: 1991 a. 65; 1995 a. 160.

8 insert 12-14:

9 SECTION 11. 943.245 (8) ✓ of the statutes is amended to read:

10 943.245 (8) Nothing in this section precludes a plaintiff from bringing the
11 action under ch. 799 if the amount claimed is within the jurisdictional limits of s.
12 799.01 (1) (d) or, if the claim is based on negligence, s. 799.01 (1) (e). ✓

13 History: 1985 a. 179; 1987 a. 398; 1989 a. 31; 1993 a. 71.

14 insert 12-23:

15 SECTION 12. 943.51 (6) ✓ of the statutes is amended to read:

16 943.51 (6) Nothing in this section precludes a plaintiff from bringing the action
17 under ch. 799 if the amount claimed is within the jurisdictional limits of s. 799.01 (1)
18 (d) or, if the claim is based on negligence, s. 799.01 (1) (e). ✓

History: 1985 a. 179; 1989 a. 31; 1993 a. 71; 1995 a. 77.

Insert 4-1:

1 **4.** Page 3, line 8: after that line insert:

2 ~~"SECTION 21h. 799.01 (1) (e) of the statutes is created to read:~~

3 799.01 (1) (e) *Negligence claims.* Notwithstanding par. (d), civil actions arising
4 out of a claim based on negligence where the amount claimed is \$5,000 or less."

5 **5.** Page 4, line 6: delete "a court of bankruptcy" and substitute "a court of
6 bankruptcy any court of the United States".

7 **6.** Page 8, line 7: delete "equal to or".

8 **7.** Page 9, line 22: after that line insert:

9 ~~"SECTION 21g. 895.035 (4) of the statutes, as affected by 1999 Wisconsin Act
10 9, is amended to read:~~

11 895.035 (4) Except for recovery under sub. (4a) or for retail theft under s.
12 943.51, the maximum recovery under this section from any parent or parents may
13 not exceed the amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d) \$5000 for damages resulting from
14 any one act of a juvenile in addition to taxable costs and disbursements and
15 reasonable attorney fees, as determined by the court. If 2 or more juveniles in the
16 custody of the same parent or parents commit the same act the total recovery under
17 this section may not exceed the amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d) \$5000, in addition
18 to taxable costs and disbursements. The maximum recovery from any parent or
19 parents for retail theft by their minor child is established under s. 943.51."

20 **8.** Page 9, line 23: delete lines 23 to 25.

21 **9.** Page 10, line 1: delete lines 1 to 15 and substitute:

22 ~~"SECTION 22g. 895.08 of the statutes is created to read:~~

23 **895.08 Suit by collection agency.** In addition to the requirements of ss.
24 ~~801.09 (1), 801.095, 802.04 (1) and 815.05 (intro.), in an action brought by a collection~~

age
its

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

Nelson, Robert P.

From: Smyrski, Rose
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2001 4:05 PM
To: Nelson, Robert P.
Subject: Question

Montgomery

-1583

I am just wondering if I forwarded over a request to have hunting licenses included on our Main Street crime bill--LRB 1583. I thought I had but if I did not would you please re-draft the language to include when a person purchases a license and their check bounces and they don't reimburse the store-that their license is no longer valid.

Any questions, please call.
Thanks!
Rose

*[check is made out to retailer]
- DNR*

20.905



State of Wisconsin
2001 - 2002 LEGISLATURE



LRB-1583/2 3 RMR
RPN:hmh&jld:jf
stays

2001 BILL

Regenerate

1 AN ACT *to repeal* 814.04 (1) (b); *to amend* 16.007 (6) (a), 799.01 (1) (c), 799.01
2 (1) (d) (intro.), 799.01 (2), 802.04 (1), 812.34 (2) (a), 812.34 (2) (b) 1., 812.37 (1),
3 812.37 (2), 812.38 (1) (b), 812.38 (2), 812.44 (3) (form) 3., 812.44 (4) (form) 1.,
4 812.44 (4) (form) 3., 814.04 (1) (a), 814.04 (2), 814.07, 814.634 (1) (b), 814.634
5 (1) (c), 815.18 (3) (k), 895.035 (2), 895.035 (4), 895.80 (1), 895.80 (2), 895.80 (3)
6 (b), 938.245 (2) (a) 5. am., 938.32 (1t) (a) 1m., 938.45 (1r) (a), 938.45 (1r) (b),
7 943.212 (7), 943.24 (3) (b), 943.24 (3) (c), 943.245 (3), 943.245 (4), 943.245 (8),
8 943.51 (3), 943.51 (3m) and 943.51 (6); *to repeal and recreate* 895.80 (3) (a)
9 and 895.80 (4); and *to create* 218.04 (9j), 799.01 (1) (e), 812.34 (2) (c), 895.08,
10 895.80 (3) (c) and 895.80 (6) of the statutes; **relating to:** parental liability for
11 acts of their minor child, recovery of damages for certain criminal actions,
12 increasing the jurisdictional amount in small claims court, garnishment,
13 attorney fees, exemption from execution of accounts, civil actions by collection

BILL

1 agencies, earnings garnishment, retail theft, ~~and~~ recovery in actions involving
 2 worthless checks, ^{revocation} and ~~revocation~~ of fish and game approvals
 for which payment is made by worthless checks.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill increases the jurisdictional limit in small claims actions from \$5,000 to \$10,000, except for actions based on negligence, which remain at the \$5,000 limit. This change results in a corresponding increase in the amount that the claims board pays a claimant without submitting a bill to the legislature but maintains the \$5,000 limit on the amount a parent may have to pay for damages caused by his or her child.

Current law provides for limited payment of attorney fees by the unsuccessful litigant to the successful litigant in all civil actions. In a civil action concerning money damages or property, the successful litigant is entitled to attorney fees based on the following schedule:

<u>Amount recovered / value of property</u>	<u>Fee</u>
\$1,000 or more	\$100
\$500 to \$999.99	\$ 50
\$200 to \$499.99	\$ 25
Under \$200	\$ 15

This bill changes the amount of attorney fees allowed in these cases as follows:

<u>Amount recovered / value of property</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Greater than \$10,000	\$500
\$1,000 to \$9,999.99	\$300
Under \$1,000	\$100

The bill also increases the amount of attorney fees recoverable in civil cases that do not involve money damages or property from a maximum of \$100 to a maximum of \$300.

Under current law, in civil cases certain disbursements, such as those made for the costs of certified copies of public papers or records, postage, and depositions, are recoverable by the successful litigant, but are limited to \$50 for each item. This bill expands the list of disbursements that are recoverable to include such items as overnight delivery and facsimile transmissions and increases the limit to \$100 for each item. The bill also increases the amount that a successful litigant may recover for the cost of each expert witness testifying on behalf of the successful litigant from \$100 to \$300 and for filing a motion from \$50 to \$300.

Under current law, the earnings exemption in earnings garnishment actions provides that a debtor's earnings are totally exempt if the debtor's income is below the poverty line or if the garnishment would cause that result. Under this bill, a debtor's earnings are totally exempt if the debtor's income is below the poverty line, but if the garnishment would result in the debtor's income being below the poverty

BILL

line, the amount garnished is limited to the debtor's income in excess of the poverty line. The bill requires debtors who claim earnings exemptions to submit with their answer to the garnishment the schedules and worksheets that were given to them with the garnishment, plus any supporting documents. The bill restricts the exemption from execution for depository accounts to those depository accounts that are for the debtor's personal use.

Under current law, a person who suffers damage as a result of certain crimes against property may sue the person that caused the damage. Currently, the person may recover treble damages plus the costs of the investigation and litigation. Under the bill, the person may recover his or her actual damages, including the value of the damaged property, the costs of the investigation and litigation, and the value of the time spent by an employee, and exemplary damages of not more than three times the amount of actual damages. Any recovery is reduced by any amount received as restitution.

Current law provides that the total amount a person may receive for exemplary damages and attorney fees in an action to recover damages resulting from the issuance of a worthless check or retail theft is limited to \$500. This bill provides that the \$500 limit applies for each violation.

This bill allows licensed collection agencies to consolidate a creditor's accounts related to a particular debtor with those of other creditors related to that debtor and bring an action on behalf of those creditors against the debtor. The bill provides that the collection agency that brings the action is a real party in interest for purposes of maintaining the action under the rules of civil procedure. The bill requires the collection agency, when it brings an action consolidated on behalf of a number of creditors, to include the names of the creditors in the caption of the action.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 16.007 (6) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 16.007 (6) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), whenever the claims board by
3 unanimous vote finds that payment to a claimant of not more than the amount
4 specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d) is justified, it may order the amount that it finds justified
5 to be paid on its own motion without submission of the claim in bill form to the
6 legislature. The claim shall be paid on a voucher upon the certification of the
7 chairperson and secretary of the board, and shall be charged as provided in sub. (6m).

8 **SECTION 2.** 218.04 (9j) of the statutes is created to read:

INS ANL

INS 3-8

BILL

1 218.04 (9j) CIVIL ACTION BY LICENSEE. A licensee may, after receiving
2 authorization from a creditor, consolidate the creditor's account or accounts relating
3 to a particular debtor with those of any other creditor or creditors relating to that
4 debtor and may bring an action on behalf of the creditor or creditors. A licensee that
5 brings an action under this subsection is the real party in interest under s. 803.01
6 (2) for purposes of maintaining an action. A licensee that brings an action under this
7 subsection shall comply with the caption requirements of s. 895.08.

8 **SECTION 3.** 799.01 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 799.01 (1) (c) *Replevins.* Actions for replevin under ss. 810.01 to 810.13 where
10 the value of the property claimed does not exceed ~~\$5,000~~ \$10,000.

11 **SECTION 4.** 799.01 (1) (d) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 799.01 (1) (d) *Other civil actions.* (intro.) Other civil actions where the amount
13 claimed is ~~\$5,000~~ \$10,000 or less, if the actions or proceedings are:

14 **SECTION 5.** 799.01 (1) (e) of the statutes is created to read:

15 799.01 (1) (e) *Negligence claims.* Notwithstanding par. (d), civil actions arising
16 out of a claim based on negligence where the amount claimed is \$5,000 or less.

17 **SECTION 6.** 799.01 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 799.01 (2) **PERMISSIVE USE OF SMALL CLAIMS PROCEDURE.** A taxing authority may
19 use the procedure in this chapter in an action to recover a tax from a person liable
20 for that tax where the amount claimed, including interest and penalties, is ~~\$5,000~~
21 \$10,000 or less. This chapter is not the exclusive procedure for those actions.

22 **SECTION 7.** 802.04 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 802.04 (1) **CAPTION.** Every pleading shall contain a caption setting forth the
24 name of the court, the venue, the title of the action, the file number, and a designation
25 as in s. 802.01 (1). If a pleading contains motions, or an answer or reply contains

BILL

1 cross-claims or counterclaims, the designation in the caption shall state their
2 existence. In the complaint the caption of the action shall include the standardized
3 description of the case classification type and associated code number as approved
4 by the director of state courts, and the title of the action shall include the names and
5 addresses of all the parties, indicating the representative capacity, if any, in which
6 they sue or are sued and, in actions by or against a corporation, the corporate
7 existence and its domestic or foreign status shall be indicated. In pleadings other
8 than the complaint, it is sufficient to state the name of the first party on each side
9 with an appropriate indication of other parties. Every pleading commencing an
10 action under s. 814.61 (1) (a) or 814.62 (1) or (2) and every complaint filed under s.
11 814.61 (3) shall contain in the caption, if the action includes a claim for a money
12 judgment, a statement of whether the amount claimed is greater than the amount
13 under s. 799.01 (1) (d) or, if the claim is based on negligence, s. 799.01 (1) (e).

14 **SECTION 8.** 812.34 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 812.34 (2) (a) Unless the court grants relief under s. 812.38 (2) or par. (b) or (c)
16 applies, 80% of the debtor's disposable earnings are exempt from garnishment under
17 this subchapter.

18 **SECTION 9.** 812.34 (2) (b) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

19 812.34 (2) (b) 1. The debtor's household income is below the poverty line, ~~or the~~
20 ~~garnishment would cause that result; or~~ .

21 **SECTION 10.** 812.34 (2) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

22 812.34 (2) (c) If the garnishment of 20% of the debtor's disposable income under
23 this subchapter would result in the debtor's household income being below the
24 poverty line, the amount of the garnishment is limited to the debtor's household
25 income in excess of the poverty line before the garnishment is in effect.

BILL**SECTION 11**

1 **SECTION 11.** 812.37 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 812.37 (1) Except as provided in s. 812.34 (1), the debtor may claim an
3 exemption under s. 812.34 (2) (b) or a limit to the garnishment under s. 812.34 (2)
4 (c), or may assert any defense to the earnings garnishment, by completing the answer
5 form and delivering or mailing it to the garnishee, along with the schedules and
6 worksheets provided under s. 812.35 (4) (b) and any other documents supporting his
7 or her answer, such as a wage statement, a court order regarding the payment of
8 support or a document showing the receipt of aid to families with dependent children,
9 relief funded by a relief block grant under ch. 49, relief provided by counties under
10 s. 59.53 (21), medical assistance, supplemental security income, food stamps, or
11 veterans benefits based on need under 38 USC 501 to 562 or s. 45.351 (1). The debtor
12 or debtor's spouse may file an answer or an amended answer and documentation at
13 any time before or during the effective period of the earnings garnishment.

14 **SECTION 12.** 812.37 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 812.37 (2) Whenever the garnishee receives a debtor's answer or amended
16 answer and the schedules, worksheets, and other documents, the garnishee shall
17 mail a copy of the answer, schedules, worksheets, and any other documents the
18 debtor included with the answer to the creditor by the end of the 3rd business day
19 after receiving the debtor's answer and documents, writing on that copy the date of
20 receipt of the answer and documents by the garnishee.

21 **SECTION 13.** 812.38 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 812.38 (1) (b) The debtor may file with the court a written petition for relief
23 from the earnings garnishment if the exemption percentage under s. 812.34 (2) (a)
24 is insufficient for the debtor to acquire the necessities of life for the debtor and his
25 or her dependents. The petition shall state with reasonable specificity the grounds

BILL

1 for the relief requested and shall include any additional information necessary to
2 support the petition.

3 **SECTION 14.** 812.38 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 812.38 (2) A motion or petition under sub. (1) may be made at any time during
5 the pendency of the earnings garnishment. Within 5 business days after a motion
6 or petition is filed under sub. (1), the court shall schedule the matter for a hearing
7 to be held as promptly as practicable. The court shall notify the parties of the time
8 and place of the hearing. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the court shall make
9 findings of fact and conclusions of law. If the debtor has failed to produce the
10 schedules and worksheets or other documents necessary to support a claim for
11 exemptions or other defenses, the court shall award the creditor his or her costs
12 related to the motion in an amount of not less than \$50. An award under this
13 subsection may not substitute for or replace an award made under sub. (3). The court
14 shall make such order as required by these findings and conclusions. If the order
15 permits the garnishment to proceed, the date on which the order is served upon the
16 garnishee shall substitute for the original date of service of the garnishment upon
17 the garnishee under s. 812.35 (3) for the purpose of determining any 13-week period
18 under s. 812.35 (5) or (6). A court order shall bind the garnishee from the time the
19 order is served upon him or her.

20 **SECTION 15.** 812.44 (3) (form) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

21 812.44 (3) (form) 3. Whenever you receive a debtor's answer form from the
22 debtor, mail a copy of the answer form and any documents the debtor included with
23 the answer form to the creditor by the end of the 3rd business day after receipt of that
24 form. Include the date you received the answer form on the copy sent to the creditor.

25 **SECTION 16.** 812.44 (4) (form) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

BILL

1 If you have earnings that are being garnisheed that are exempt or subject to a
2 defense, the sooner you file your answer or seek relief from the court, the sooner such
3 relief can be provided. This earnings garnishment affects your earnings in pay
4 periods beginning within 13 weeks after it was served on the garnishee. You may
5 agree in writing with the creditor to extend it for additional 13-week periods until
6 the debt is paid.

PENALTIES

7
8 If you wrongly claim an exemption or defense in bad faith, or if the creditor
9 wrongly objects to your claim in bad faith, the court may order the person who acted
10 in bad faith to pay court costs, actual damages and reasonable attorney fees.

11 **SECTION 18.** 814.04 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 814.04 (1) (a) When the amount recovered or the value of the property involved
13 is ~~\$1,000 or over~~ greater than the maximum amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d),
14 attorney fees shall be \$100 \$500; when it is equal to or less than \$1,000 and is \$500
15 or over, \$50 the maximum amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d), but is \$1,000 or more,
16 attorney fees shall be \$300; when it is less than \$500 and is \$200 or over, \$25; and
17 when it is less than \$200, \$15 \$1,000, attorney fees shall be \$100. In all other cases
18 in which there is no amount recovered or that do not involve property, attorney fees
19 shall be \$300.

20 **SECTION 19.** 814.04 (1) (b) of the statutes is repealed.

21 **SECTION 20.** 814.04 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 814.04 (2) **DISBURSEMENTS.** All the necessary disbursements and fees allowed
23 by law; the compensation of referees; a reasonable disbursement for the service of
24 process or other papers in an action when the same are served by a person authorized
25 by law other than an officer, but the item may not exceed the authorized sheriff's fee

BILL

1 for the same service; amounts actually paid out for certified and other copies of
2 papers and records in any public office; postage, ~~telegraphing~~ photocopying,
3 telephoning, electronic communications, facsimile transmissions, and express or
4 overnight delivery; depositions including copies; plats, and photographs, not
5 exceeding ~~\$50~~ \$100 for each item; an expert witness fee not exceeding ~~\$100~~ \$300 for
6 each expert who testifies, exclusive of the standard witness fee and mileage which
7 shall also be taxed for each expert; and in actions relating to or affecting the title to
8 lands, the cost of procuring an abstract of title to the lands. Guardian ad litem fees
9 shall not be taxed as a cost or disbursement.

10 SECTION 21. 814.07 of the statutes is amended to read:

11 **814.07 Costs on motion.** Costs may be allowed on a motion, in the discretion
12 of the court or judge, not exceeding ~~\$50~~ \$300, and may be absolute or directed to abide
13 the event of the action.

14 SECTION 22. 814.634 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 814.634 (1) (b) Notwithstanding par. (a), the clerk of circuit court shall charge
16 and collect a \$100 court support services fee from any person, including any
17 governmental unit as defined in s. 108.02 (17), paying a fee under s. 814.61 (1) (a) or
18 (3) or 814.62 (1) or (2), if the party paying the fee seeks the recovery of money and
19 the amount claimed exceeds the amount under s. 799.01 (1) (d) or, if the claim is based
20 on negligence, s. 799.01 (1) (e).

21 SECTION 23. 814.634 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 814.634 (1) (c) Notwithstanding par. (a), the clerk of circuit court shall charge
23 and collect a \$30 court support services fee from any person, including any
24 governmental unit as defined in s. 108.02 (17), paying a fee under s. 814.62 (3) (a) or
25 (b), or paying a fee under s. 814.61 (1) (a) or (3) or 814.62 (1) or (2) if the party paying

BILL

1 the fee seeks the recovery of money and the amount claimed is equal to or less than
2 the amount under s. 799.01 (1) (d) or, if the claim is based on negligence, s. 799.01
3 (1) (e).

4 **SECTION 24.** 815.18 (3) (k) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 815.18 (3) (k) *Depository accounts.* Depository accounts in the aggregate value
6 of \$1,000, but only to the extent that the account is for the debtor's personal use and
7 is not used as a business account.

8 **SECTION 25.** 895.035 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 895.035 (2) The parent or parents with custody of a minor child, in any
10 circumstances where he, she, or they may not be liable under the common law, are
11 liable for damages to property, for the cost of repairing or replacing property or
12 removing the marking, drawing, writing, or etching from property regarding a
13 violation under s. 943.017, for the value of unrecovered stolen property, or for
14 personal injury attributable to a wilful, malicious, or wanton act of the child. The
15 parent or parents with custody of their minor child are jointly and severally liable
16 with the child for the damages imposed under s. 895.80, 943.212, 943.24, 943.245,
17 or 943.51 for their child's violation of s. 943.01, 943.011, 943.012, 943.017, 943.20,
18 943.201, 943.21, 943.24, 943.26, 943.34, 943.395, 943.41, 943.50, or 943.61.

19 **SECTION 26.** 895.035 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 895.035 (4) Except for recovery under sub. (4a) or for retail theft under s.
21 943.51, the maximum recovery under this section from any parent or parents may
22 not exceed ~~the amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d)~~ \$5,000 for damages resulting from
23 any one act of a juvenile in addition to taxable costs and disbursements ~~and~~
24 ~~reasonable attorney fees, as determined by the court~~ under s. 814.04. If 2 or more
25 juveniles in the custody of the same parent or parents commit the same act the total

BILL

1 recovery under this section may not exceed ~~the amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d)~~
2 \$5,000, in addition to taxable costs and disbursements under s. 814.04. The
3 maximum recovery from any parent or parents for retail theft by their minor child
4 is established under s. 943.51.

5 **SECTION 27.** 895.08 of the statutes is created to read:

6 **895.08 Suit by collection agency.** In addition to the requirements of ss.
7 801.09 (1), 801.095, 802.04 (1), and 815.05 (intro.), in an action brought by a
8 collection agency under s. 218.04 (9j), the collection agency shall include in the
9 caption, under its name, the names of the creditors on whose behalf the action is
10 brought.

11 **SECTION 28.** 895.80 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 **895.80 (1)** Any person who suffers damage or loss by reason of intentional
13 conduct that occurs on or after November 1, 1995, and that is prohibited under s.
14 943.01, 943.20, 943.21, 943.24, 943.26, 943.34, 943.395, 943.41, 943.50, or 943.61, or
15 by reason of intentional conduct that occurs on or after April 28, 1998, and that is
16 prohibited under s. 943.201, or by reason of intentional conduct that occurs on or
17 after the effective date of this subsection ... [revisor inserts date], and that is
18 prohibited under s. 943.011, 943.012, or 943.017, has a cause of action against the
19 person who caused the damage or loss.

20 **SECTION 29.** 895.80 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 **895.80 (2)** The burden of proof in a civil action under sub. (1) is with the person
22 who suffers damage or loss to prove his or her case a violation of s. 943.01, 943.011,
23 943.012, 943.017, 943.20, 943.201, 943.21, 943.24, 943.26, 943.34, 943.395, 943.41,
24 943.50, or 943.61 by a preponderance of the credible evidence. A conviction under
25 s. 943.01, 943.011, 943.012, 943.017, 943.20, 943.201, 943.21, 943.24, 943.26, 943.34,

BILL

1 943.395, 943.41, 943.50, or 943.61 is not required to bring an action, obtain a
2 judgment, or collect on that judgment under this section.

3 **SECTION 30.** 895.80 (3) (a) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

4 895.80 (3) (a) Actual damages, including the retail or replacement value of
5 damaged, used, or lost property, whichever is greater, for a violation of s. 943.01,
6 943.011, 943.012, 943.017, 943.20, 943.201, 943.21, 943.24, 943.26, 943.34, 943.395,
7 943.41, 943.50, or 943.61.

8 **SECTION 31.** 895.80 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 895.80 (3) (b) All costs of investigation and litigation that were reasonably
10 incurred, including the value of the time spent by any employee or agent of the
11 victim.

12 **SECTION 32.** 895.80 (3) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

13 895.80 (3) (c) Exemplary damages of not more than 3 times the amount
14 awarded under par. (a). No additional proof is required under this section for an
15 award of exemplary damages under this paragraph.

16 **SECTION 33.** 895.80 (4) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

17 895.80 (4) Any recovery under this section shall be reduced by the amount
18 recovered as restitution under ss. 800.093 and 973.20 and ch. 938.

19 **SECTION 34.** 895.80 (6) of the statutes is created to read:

20 895.80 (6) A person is not criminally liable under s. 943.30 for any action
21 brought in good faith under this section.

22 **SECTION 35.** 938.245 (2) (a) 5. am. of the statutes is amended to read:

23 938.245 (2) (a) 5. am. That the parent who has custody, as defined in s. 895.035
24 (1), of the juvenile make reasonable restitution for any damage to the property of
25 another, or for any actual physical injury to another excluding pain and suffering,

BILL**SECTION 35**

1 resulting from the act for which the deferred prosecution agreement is being entered
2 into. Except for recovery for retail theft under s. 943.51, the maximum amount of any
3 restitution ordered under this subd. 5. am. for damage or injury resulting from any
4 one act of a juvenile or from the same act committed by 2 or more juveniles in the
5 custody of the same parent may not exceed ~~the amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d)~~
6 \$5,000. Any order under this subd. 5. am. shall include a finding that the parent who
7 has custody of the juvenile is financially able to pay the amount ordered and may
8 allow up to the date of the expiration of the deferred prosecution agreement for the
9 payment. Any recovery under this subd. 5. am. shall be reduced by the amount
10 recovered as restitution for the same act under subd. 5. a.

11 **SECTION 36.** 938.32 (1t) (a) 1m. of the statutes is amended to read:

12 938.32 (1t) (a) 1m. If the petition alleges that the juvenile has committed a
13 delinquent act that has resulted in damage to the property of another, or in actual
14 physical injury to another excluding pain and suffering, the judge or juvenile court
15 commissioner may require a parent who has custody, as defined in s. 895.035 (1), of
16 the juvenile, as a condition of the consent decree, to make reasonable restitution for
17 the damage or injury. Except for recovery for retail theft under s. 943.51, the
18 maximum amount of any restitution ordered under this subdivision for damage or
19 injury resulting from any one act of a juvenile or from the same act committed by 2
20 or more juveniles in the custody of the same parent may not exceed ~~the amount~~
21 ~~specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d)~~ \$5,000. Any consent decree that includes a condition of
22 restitution by a parent who has custody of the juvenile shall include a finding that
23 the parent who has custody of the juvenile is financially able to pay the amount
24 ordered and may allow up to the date of the expiration of the consent decree for the
25 payment. Objection by the parent to the amount of damages claimed shall entitle the

BILL

1 parent to a hearing on the question of damages before the amount of restitution is
2 made part of the consent decree. Any recovery under this subdivision shall be
3 reduced by the amount recovered as restitution for the same act under subd. 1.

4 **SECTION 37.** 938.45 (1r) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 938.45 (1r) (a) In a proceeding in which a juvenile has been found to have
6 committed a delinquent act or a civil law or ordinance violation that has resulted in
7 damage to the property of another, or in actual physical injury to another excluding
8 pain and suffering, the court may order a parent who has custody, as defined in s.
9 895.035 (1), of the juvenile to make reasonable restitution for the damage or injury.
10 Except for recovery for retail theft under s. 943.51, the maximum amount of any
11 restitution ordered under this paragraph for damage or injury resulting from any
12 one act of a juvenile or from the same act committed by 2 or more juveniles in the
13 custody of the same parent may not exceed ~~the amount specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d)~~
14 \$5,000. Any order under this paragraph shall include a finding that the parent who
15 has custody of the juvenile is financially able to pay the amount ordered and may
16 allow up to the date of expiration of the order for the payment. Any recovery under
17 this paragraph shall be reduced by the amount recovered as restitution for the same
18 act under s. 938.34 (5) or 938.343 (4).

19 **SECTION 38.** 938.45 (1r) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 938.45 (1r) (b) In a proceeding in which the court has determined under s.
21 938.34 (8) or 938.343 (2) that the imposition of a forfeiture would be in the best
22 interest of the juvenile and in aid of rehabilitation, the court may order a parent who
23 has custody, as defined in s. 895.035 (1), of the juvenile to pay the forfeiture. The
24 amount of any forfeiture ordered under this paragraph may not exceed ~~the amount~~
25 specified in s. 799.01 (1) (d) \$5,000. Any order under this paragraph shall include

BILL**SECTION 38**

1 a finding that the parent who has custody of the juvenile is financially able to pay
2 the amount ordered and shall allow up to 12 months after the date of the order for
3 the payment. Any recovery under this paragraph shall be reduced by the amount
4 recovered as a forfeiture for the same act under s. 938.34 (8) or 938.343 (2).

5 **SECTION 39.** 943.212 (7) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 943.212 (7) Nothing in this section precludes a plaintiff from bringing the
7 action under ch. 799 if the amount claimed is within the jurisdictional limits of s.
8 799.01 (1) (d) or, if the claim is based on negligence, s. 799.01 (1) (e).

9 **SECTION 40.** 943.24 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 943.24 (3) (b) Proof that, at the time of issuance, the person did not have
11 sufficient funds or credit with the drawee and that the person failed within 5 days
12 after receiving written notice of nonpayment or dishonor to pay the check or other
13 order, delivered by regular mail to either the person's last-known address or the
14 address provided on the check or other order; or

15 **SECTION 41.** 943.24 (3) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 943.24 (3) (c) Proof that, when presentment was made within a reasonable
17 time, the person did not have sufficient funds or credit with the drawee and the
18 person failed within 5 days after receiving written notice of nonpayment or dishonor
19 to pay the check or other order, delivered by regular mail to either the person's
20 last-known address or the address provided on the check or other order.

21 **SECTION 42.** 943.245 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 943.245 (3) Notwithstanding sub. (2) (c) and (d), the total amount awarded for
23 exemplary damages and reasonable attorney fees may not exceed \$500 for each
24 violation.

25 **SECTION 43.** 943.245 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

BILL

1 943.245 (4) At least 20 days prior to commencing an action, as specified in s.
2 801.02, under this section, the plaintiff shall notify the defendant, by mail, of his or
3 her intent to bring the action. Notice of nonpayment or dishonor shall be sent by the
4 payee or holder of the check or order to the drawer by regular mail supported by an
5 affidavit of service of mailing ~~or by a certificate of mailing obtained from the U.S. post~~
6 ~~office from which the mailing was made.~~ The plaintiff shall mail the notice to the
7 defendant's last-known address or to the address provided on the check or order. If
8 the defendant pays the check or order prior to the commencement of the action, he
9 or she is not liable under this section.

10 **SECTION 44.** 943.245 (8) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 943.245 (8) Nothing in this section precludes a plaintiff from bringing the
12 action under ch. 799 if the amount claimed is within the jurisdictional limits of s.
13 799.01 (1) (d) or, if the claim is based on negligence, s. 799.01 (1) (e).

14 **SECTION 45.** 943.51 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 943.51 (3) Notwithstanding sub. (2) and except as provided in sub. (3m), the
16 total amount awarded for exemplary damages and reasonable attorney fees may not
17 exceed \$500 for each violation.

18 **SECTION 46.** 943.51 (3m) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 943.51 (3m) Notwithstanding sub. (2), the total amount awarded for
20 exemplary damages and reasonable attorney fees may not exceed \$300 for each
21 violation if the action is brought against a minor or against the parent who has
22 custody of their minor child for the loss caused by the minor.

23 **SECTION 47.** 943.51 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

2001-2002 DRAFTING INSERT
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-1583/3ins
MGG:.....

Insert analysis

~~D~~ The bill also authorizes certain issuing agents appointed by the department of natural resources (DNR) to report to DNR persons who pay for fish and game licenses, stamps, and other approvals with worthless checks. An issuing agent may make such a report after having attempted to receive payment from the person who paid for the approval. Upon receipt of the report, DNR must revoke the approval. The bill requires the approval holder to return the approval to DNR.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

Insert 3-8

~~SECTION 29.962~~ of the statutes is created to read:

29.962 Worthless checks for approvals. If a person tenders a check or other order for payment to an issuing agent appointed under s. 29.024 (6) (a) 3. to make payment for an approval issued under this chapter to an issuing agent, and the check is drawn on an account that does not exist or on an account with insufficient funds, or is otherwise worthless, the issuing agent may give notification to the department of the fact after having made an effort to receive payment from the person who tendered the check or other payment. If the issuing agent gives such notification, the department shall revoke the approval and send notification to the holder of the approval that it has been revoked for failure to make payment for the approval. The holder of the approval shall return the approval to the department within 7 days after receiving the notification.