Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023

HOUSE BILL NO. 1058
(Judiciary Committee)
(At the request of the Supreme Court)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 27-08.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to small claims.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 27-08.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

27-08.1-04. Election to proceed in small claims court irrevocable.

Election by the plaintiff to use the procedures provided for in this chapter is irrevocable. In the event the plaintiff elects to discontinue the proceedings, the court shall enter its order accordingly, and unless otherwise provided in the order the dismissal must be deemed to be with prejudice. By election to proceed in small claims court, the plaintiff waives the right to appeal to any other court from the decision of the small claims court. The defendant waives the right to appeal from the decision of the small claims court upon receiving the order for appearance as required herein, unless the defendant elects to remove the action from the small claims court to district court. If the defendant elects to remove the action to district court, the defendant must serve upon the plaintiff a notice of the removal and file with the clerk of the court to which the action is removed a copy of the claim affidavit and the defendant's answer along with the filing fee, except for an answer fee, required for civil actions. If the defendant elects to remove the action from small claims court to district court, the district court shall award attorney's fees to a prevailing plaintiff. <u>If the defendant appeals a district court judgment to the supreme court, the supreme court shall award reasonable attorney's fees to the prevailing appellee.</u>

Speaker of the House	President of the Senate
Chief Clerk of the House	Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1058.

House Vote:	Yeas 92	Nays 0	Absent 2
Senate Vote:	Yeas 45	Nays 0	Absent 2

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____M. on _____, 2023.

Approved at _____M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____day of _____, 2023,

at _____ o'clock _____M.

Secretary of State