HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: S.F. 149 **DATE:** January 30, 2012
Version: Second unofficial engrossment

Authors: Wardlow

Subject: Conciliation court jurisdiction; class action certification

Analyst: Rebecca Pirius, 651-296-5044

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

---

1 **Conciliation court; jurisdiction.** Increases the monetary thresholds for filing a civil action in conciliation court. It raises the general monetary threshold from $7,500 to $10,000, and raises the threshold for consumer credit transaction claims from $4,000 to $5,000. The threshold for specific forfeiture actions now listed under clause (2) is unchanged. (Conciliation court actions must be conducted without a jury and by a simple and informal procedure. The filing fee in conciliation court is $65, as compared to $310 in district court.)

2 **Class action certification; interlocutory appeals.** Permits a court's order related to certification of a class in a class action suit to be appealed before the case moves forward. Existing court rules permit appeal of class certification orders upon application of a party in the case, but the Court of Appeals is not required to hear the appeal.

If an order related to class certification is appealed, proceedings on that suit in district court, including discovery, are automatically stayed while the appeal is pending. A party may file a motion to have the stay fully or partially lifted for good cause. Current court rule provides discretionary authority for the court of appeals or district court to issue a stay.

This section would apply to court orders related to class certification issued on or after July 1, 2012.