



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1041

LCO No. 4172



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT INCREASING THE JURISDICTIONAL MONETARY LIMIT IN
SMALL CLAIMS MATTERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 51-15 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (d) The procedure for the hearing and determination of small claims
5 as the same may be prescribed, from time to time, by the judges of the
6 Superior Court shall be used in all small claims sessions of the court. The
7 small claims procedure shall only be applicable to (1) all actions
8 claiming money damages not in excess of [five thousand] seven
9 thousand five hundred dollars, except such procedure shall not be
10 applicable to actions of libel and slander, and (2) actions claiming loss
11 or damages not in excess of fifteen thousand dollars sustained by reason
12 of (A) performance of, or offer to perform, home improvement, as
13 defined in section 20-419, by a contractor holding a certificate under
14 chapter 400, or (B) a contract for new home construction with a new
15 home construction contractor holding a certificate under chapter 399a.

16 If an action is brought in the small claims session by a tenant pursuant
17 to subsection (g) of section 47a-21 to reclaim any part of a security
18 deposit which may be due, the judicial authority hearing the action may
19 award to the tenant the damages authorized by subsection (d) of said
20 section and, if authorized by the rental agreement or any provision of
21 the general statutes, costs, notwithstanding that the amount of such
22 damages and costs, in the aggregate, exceeds the jurisdictional
23 monetary limit established by subdivision (1) of this subsection. If a
24 motion is filed to transfer a small claims matter to the regular docket in
25 the court, the moving party shall pay the fee prescribed by section 52-
26 259. The Attorney General or an assistant attorney general, or the head
27 of any state agency or his or her authorized representative, while acting
28 in his or her official capacity shall not be required to pay any small
29 claims court fee. There shall be no charge for copies of service on
30 defendants in small claims matters.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	51-15(d)

Statement of Purpose:

To increase the jurisdictional monetary limit in small claims matters.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]