

2011 -- H 5355

LC00946

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR
ACTIONS -- SMALL CLAIMS AND CONSUMER CLAIMS

Introduced By: Representatives Chippendale, Costa, Brien, Gallison, and Jacquard

Date Introduced: February 15, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 10-16-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 10-16 entitled "Small
2 Claims and Consumer Claims" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **10-16-1. Actions subject to chapter.** – (a) In all ex contractu civil actions and in any
4 action to recover the amount of any tax for money only not in excess of ~~two thousand five~~
5 ~~hundred dollars (\$2,500)~~ five thousand dollars (\$5,000) exclusive of interest and costs, and in all
6 actions or suits to recover damages resulting from a retail sale of tangible personal property to a
7 member of the general public or from services rendered to a member of the general public in
8 which the plaintiff seeks to recover an amount of money only not in excess of ~~two thousand five~~
9 ~~hundred dollars (\$2,500)~~ five thousand dollars (\$5,000) exclusive of interest and costs, and in all
10 actions or suits based upon a negotiable instrument involving an amount of money only not in
11 excess of ~~two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500)~~ five thousand dollars (\$5,000) exclusive of
12 interest and costs, the procedure shall, at the plaintiff's election, shown by his or her waiver of
13 appeal, be as provided by this chapter.

14 (b) The jurisdictional dollar amount as provided for under this section shall be subject to
15 future increases based upon the consumer price index (CPI) one year after the effective date of
16 this section, and annually thereafter.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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- 1 This act would increase the jurisdiction of matters in small claims court from two
- 2 thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to five thousand (\$5,000) and would allow for future
- 3 increases based upon the consumer price index (CPI) at that time.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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