



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**Committee Bill No. 364**

LCO No. 3093

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

**AN ACT CONCERNING DAMAGES IN SMALL CLAIMS ACTIONS.**

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2003*):

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.  
7 The small claims procedure shall be applicable to all actions, except  
8 actions of libel and slander, claiming money damages not in excess of  
9 [three thousand five hundred] five thousand dollars, and to no other  
10 actions. If an action is brought in the small claims session by a tenant  
11 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 47a-21 to reclaim any part of a  
12 security deposit which may be due, the judicial authority hearing the  
13 action may award to the tenant the damages authorized by subsection  
14 (d) of said section and, if authorized by the rental agreement or any  
15 provision of the general statutes, costs, notwithstanding that the  
16 amount of such damages and costs, in the aggregate, exceeds the  
17 jurisdictional monetary limit established by this subsection. If a motion

18 is filed to transfer a small claims matter to the regular docket in the  
19 court, the moving party shall pay the fee prescribed by section 52-259.  
20 The Attorney General or an assistant attorney general, or the head of  
21 any state agency or his or her authorized representative, while acting  
22 in his or her official capacity shall not be required to pay any small  
23 claims court fee. There shall be no charge for copies of service on  
24 defendants in small claims matters.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

**Statement of Purpose:**

To increase the maximum amount of money damages in a small claims action from three thousand five hundred dollars to five thousand dollars.

*[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.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. HARTLEY, 15th Dist.; REP. FRITZ, 90th Dist.  
REP. BERGER, 73rd Dist.; SEN. RORABACK, 30th Dist.  
REP. DOYLE, 28th Dist.; REP. O'NEILL, 69th Dist.  
REP. TERCYAK, 26th Dist.