

History of Changes to Small Claims Court Limit

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Issue

Summarize the changes to Connecticut's small claims court limit and recent bills on this topic.

Other States

For information on the small claims court limits in other states, see OLR Report [2016-R-0187](#).

Summary

The current small claims limit in Connecticut is \$5,000 ([CGS § 51-15\(d\)](#)). The limit was last increased in 2005. Table 1 shows the history of changes to the small claims limit in Connecticut since 1980.

Table 1: Increases to Small Claims Court Limit in Connecticut Since 1980

<i>Public Act</i>	<i>New Limit</i>
PA 05-42	\$5,000
PA 00-94*	\$3,500
PA 95-36	\$2,500
PA 89-53	\$2,000
PA 85-256	\$1,500
PA 81-129	\$1,000 (prior limit was \$750)

* [PA 00-94](#) provided an exception to the small claims limit for certain cases by tenants to recover a security deposit.

In recent years, the General Assembly has considered several bills that would have increased the small claims limit. No such bills have been voted out of committee.

These bills included several proposed bills that would have set new limits ranging from \$7,500 to \$12,000. In addition, the Judiciary Committee raised bills in each of the last three long sessions that would have increased the limit, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Raised Bills on Small Claims Court Limit, 2013 to 2017

<i>Year</i>	<i>Bill</i>	<i>Proposed New Limit</i>
2013	HB 6479	\$10,000
2015	HB 6924	\$10,000
2017	HB 7197	\$7,500

For information on the small claims court process in Connecticut, see the Judicial Branch [website](#).

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