

STATE OF NEW YORK

5316

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 20, 2025

Introduced by Sen. BAILEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the uniform justice court act, in relation to civil jurisdictional limits and increasing filing fees

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision a of section 201 of the uniform justice court
2 act, as amended by chapter 685 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read
3 as follows:

4 a. The court shall have jurisdiction as set forth in this article and
5 as elsewhere provided by law~~[, subject, in the case of a city court~~
6 ~~governed by this act, to the limitations stated in § 2300 (b) (2) (i) of~~
7 ~~this act]~~. The phrase "~~[\$3000] \$5000~~", whenever it appears herein, shall
8 be taken to mean "~~[\$3000] \$5000~~ exclusive of interest and costs"~~[,~~
9 ~~except that, in the case of a city court governed by this act whose~~
10 ~~monetary jurisdiction is, pursuant to § 2300 (b) (2) (i) of this act,~~
11 ~~below \$3000, it shall be taken to mean such lesser sum as is applicable~~
12 ~~in the particular court, exclusive of interest and costs]~~.

13 § 2. Section 202 of the uniform justice court act, as amended by chap-
14 ter 685 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:

15 § 202. Money actions and actions to recover chattels.

16 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court shall have
17 jurisdiction of actions and proceedings for the recovery of money or
18 chattels where the amount sought to be recovered or the value of the
19 property does not exceed [~~\$3000] \$5000.~~

20 § 3. Section 1801 of the uniform justice court act, as amended by
21 chapter 485 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

22 § 1801. Small claims defined.

23 The term "small claim" or "small claims" as used in this act shall
24 mean and include any cause of action for money only not in excess of
25 [~~three] five thousand dollars exclusive of interest and costs, provided~~

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD09498-01-5

1 that the defendant either resides, or has an office for the transaction
2 of business or a regular employment within the municipality where the
3 court is located, or where claimant is or was a tenant or lessee of real
4 property owned by the defendant and the claim relates to such tenancy or
5 lease, and such real property is situated within the municipality where
6 the court is located. However, where a judge of the county court, pursu-
7 ant to subdivision (g) of section three hundred twenty-five of the civil
8 practice law and rules, transfers a small claim from the town or village
9 court having jurisdiction over the matter to another town or village
10 court within the same county, the court to which it is transferred shall
11 have jurisdiction to determine the claim.

12 § 4. Subdivision (a) of section 1803 of the uniform justice court act,
13 as amended by chapter 485 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 (a) Small claims shall be commenced upon the payment by the claimant
16 of a filing fee of [~~ten~~] fifteen dollars for claims in the amount of one
17 thousand dollars or less and [~~fifteen~~] twenty dollars for claims in the
18 amount of more than one thousand dollars, without the service of a
19 summons and, except by special order of the court, without the service
20 of any pleading other than a statement of [~~his~~] the cause of action by
21 the claimant or someone [~~in his~~] on such claimant's behalf to the clerk,
22 who shall reduce the same to a concise, written form and record it in a
23 filing system maintained especially for such purpose. Such procedure
24 shall provide for the sending of notice of such claim by ordinary first
25 class mail and certified mail with return receipt requested to the party
26 complained against (1) at [~~his~~] their residence, if [~~he~~] such party
27 resides within the county and [~~his~~] their residence is known to the
28 claimant, (2) at [~~his~~] such party's office or place of regular employ-
29 ment within the municipality if [~~he~~] such party does not reside within
30 the county or [~~his~~] their residence within the county is not known to
31 the claimant, or (3) where claimant is or was a tenant or lessee of real
32 property owned by the defendant and the claim relates to such tenancy or
33 lease and the notice of claim cannot be sent under paragraph one or two
34 of this subdivision, at any place in the county or an adjoining county
35 where claimant may mail or otherwise deliver rent. If, after the expira-
36 tion of twenty-one days, such ordinary first class mailing has not been
37 returned as undeliverable, the party complained against shall be
38 presumed to have received notice of such claim. Such notice shall
39 include a clear description of the procedure for filing a counterclaim,
40 pursuant to subdivision (c) of this section.

41 Such procedure shall further provide for an early hearing upon and
42 determination of such claim. No filing fee, however, shall be demanded
43 or received on small claims of employees who shall comply with section
44 nineteen hundred twelve of this act which is hereby made applicable,
45 except that necessary mailing costs shall be paid.

46 § 5. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
47 ing the date on which it shall have become a law and shall apply to
48 actions or proceedings filed on or after such date.