

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 654

H.P. 422

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

**An Act to Adjust the Maximum Small Claim Limit Based on the
Consumer Price Index**

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on
Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative KESSLER of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and
Representatives: MCINTYRE of Lowell, POIRIER of Skowhegan.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §7482, 2nd ¶**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 401, §3, is repealed and
3 the following enacted in its place:

4 On or before January 31, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Judicial Department shall
5 adjust the maximum small claim limit based on the Consumer Price Index Annual Average,
6 for All Urban Consumers, CPI-U: Northeast Region, All Items, reported by the United
7 States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

8 **Sec. 2. Initial adjustment.** The Judicial Department shall make the initial
9 adjustment required pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 14, section 7482, as
10 amended by this Act, by calculating the proportionate change in the Consumer Price Index
11 Annual Average, for All Urban Consumers, CPI-U: Northeast Region, All Items, reported
12 by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics from 2009 to the
13 most recent available year.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill requires the Judicial Department, on or before January 31, 2026 and annually
16 thereafter, to adjust the maximum small claim limit based on the Consumer Price Index.
17 The initial adjustment must be made by calculating the proportionate change in the index
18 from 2009 to the most recent available year.