

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 483

6
7 H.P. 400

House of Representatives, February 1, 1983

8 Received by the Clerk of the House on February 1, 1983. Referred to the
9 Committee on Judiciary, and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Hobbins of Saco.

Cosponsors: Representative Soule of Westport and Representative Hayden
of Durham.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Increase the Damages Jurisdiction
18 of the Maine District Court to \$30,000.
19

20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
21 follows:

22 4 MRSA §152, first ¶, as amended by PL 1981, c.
23 645, §1, is further amended to read:

24 The District Court shall possess the civil juris-
25 diction exercised by all trial justices and municipal
26 courts in the State on September 16, 1961, and in ad-
27 dition, original jurisdiction, concurrent with that
28 of the Superior Court of all civil actions in which
29 neither damages in excess of ~~\$20,000~~ \$30,000, nor,
30 except as herein provided, equitable relief is
31 demanded of proceedings under Title 14, sections 6651
32 to 6658 and of actions for divorce, annulment of mar-
33 riage or judicial separation and of proceedings under
34 Title 19 and original jurisdiction, concurrent with

1 that of the Superior Court, of actions to quiet title
2 to real estate under Title 14, sections 6651 to 6658,
3 and in these actions the District Court may grant
4 equitable relief; and original jurisdiction, concurrent
5 with that of the Superior Court, for breach of
6 implied warranty and covenant of habitability under
7 Title 14, section 6021, and in these actions the District
8 Court may grant equitable relief; and original
9 jurisdiction, concurrent with that of the Superior
10 Court, of actions to quiet title to real estate under
11 Title 36, section 946, and in such actions the District
12 Court may grant equitable relief, of actions to
13 foreclose mortgages under Title 14, chapter 713, sub-
14 chapter VI; and of mental health commitment hearings
15 under Title 34, chapter 191, subchapter III, and of
16 mental retardation certification hearings under Title
17 34, chapter 229; and of small claims actions under
18 Title 14, chapter 738, and in these actions the District
19 Court may grant equitable relief. This limitation
20 as to damages shall not apply in any action of
21 divorce, annulment or separation of marriage or in
22 any action to enforce judgment of support or alimony.
23 Actions for divorce, annulment or separation may be
24 remanded, upon agreement of the parties, from the
25 Superior Court to the District Court in accordance
26 with rules promulgated by the Supreme Judicial Court.
27 An action so remanded shall remain in the District
28 Court, which shall have exclusive jurisdiction thereafter,
29 subject to the rights of appeal to the Superior
30 Court as to matters of law.

31 STATEMENT OF FACT

32 This bill increases the jurisdiction of the Maine
33 District Court from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

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