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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 443

H.P. 331

House of Representatives, February 10, 2009

An Act To Increase the Jurisdictional Limit for Small Claims

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Jailand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative CLEARY of Houlton. Cosponsored by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland and Representatives: CONNOR of Kennebunk, CRAY of Palmyra, EATON of Sullivan, HILL of York, KRUGER of Thomaston, PRIEST of Brunswick, STEVENS of Bangor. 1

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §7482, as amended by PL 1997, c. 23, §1, is further amended to read:

§7482. Definition of a small claim

A "small claim" means a right of action cognizable by a court if the debt or damage does not exceed $\frac{4,500}{10,000}$ exclusive of interest and costs. It does not include an action involving the title to real estate.

8 The filing fee for an action brought under this section with a claim of damage of up to
9 \$4,500 is \$50. The filing fee for an action brought under this section with a claim of
10 damage over \$4,500 to \$10,000 is \$120.

Effective July 1, 1997 and every 4 years after that date, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters shall review the monetary limit on small claims actions and the Judicial Department shall periodically provide information and comments on the monetary limit on small claims actions to that committee.

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SUMMARY

17 This bill increases the jurisdictional limit for small claims damages from \$4,500 to 18 \$10,000 and increases the filing fee for small claims actions for damages over \$4,500 to 19 \$120.