

By Mr. Vigneault of Springfield, petition of the Credit Union League of Mass., Inc., and Dave N. Vigneault for legislation to increase the jurisdiction of district courts in small claims procedure. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

AN ACT INCREASING THE JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT COURTS IN SMALL CLAIMS PROCEDURE.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Section 21 of chapter 218 of the General Laws as amended  
2 is hereby further amended by striking out said section 21 so  
3 as to read as follows:—

4 *Section 21. Power to Establish Rules of Procedure.*—The  
5 chief justice of the district courts shall make uniform rules  
6 applicable to all the district courts except the municipal court  
7 of the city of Boston, and the chief justice of the municipal  
8 court of the city of Boston shall make rules for said court, pro-  
9 viding for a simple, informal and inexpensive procedure, here-  
10 inafter called the procedure, for the determination, according  
11 to the rules of substantive law, of claims in the nature of con-  
12 tract or tort, other than slander and libel, in which the plain-  
13 tiff does not claim as debt or damages more than one hun-  
14 dred and fifty dollars, and for a review of judgments upon such  
15 claims when justice so requires. Provided however, if the plain-  
16 tiff's claim as debt is based upon a promissory note the dam-  
17 ages claimed may exceed one hundred and fifty dollars but  
18 shall not exceed three hundred dollars.

19 The procedure shall not be exclusive, but shall be alternative  
20 to the formal procedure for causes begun by writ. Actions un-  
21 der this section and sections twenty-two to twenty-five, inclu-  
22 sive, shall be brought in the judicial district where the defend-  
23 ant lives or has his usual place of business.

By the President of the Senate, the following bills were introduced, and their titles read:—

The Commission of the Government

For the Year 1860 and 1861

That the Commission of the Government for the Year 1860 and 1861 be and the same be

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