

By Mr. Cox of Needham, petition of Gilbert W. Cox, Jr., and another relative to increasing the maximum amount of a claim which may be determined under the small claims procedure in the district courts. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Five.

AN ACT INCREASING THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF A CLAIM WHICH MAY BE DETERMINED UNDER THE SMALL CLAIMS PROCEDURE IN THE DISTRICT COURTS.

*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 1. Chapter 218 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out section 21 as most recently amended by  
3 chapter 271 of the acts of 1971 and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following section: —

5 *Section 21.* The chief justice of the district courts shall make  
6 uniform rules applicable to all the district courts except the  
7 municipal court of the city of Boston, and the chief justice of the  
8 municipal court of the city of Boston shall make rules for said  
9 court, providing for a simple, informal and inexpensive  
10 procedure, hereinafter called the procedure, for the determina-  
11 tion, according to the rules of substantive law, of claims in the  
12 nature of contract or tort, other than slander and libel, in which  
13 the plaintiff does not claim as debt or damages more than eight  
14 hundred dollars and for a review of judgements upon such  
15 claims when justice so requires. The procedure shall not be  
16 exclusive, but shall be alternative to the formal procedure for  
17 causes begun by writ. Actions under this section and sections  
18 twenty-two to twenty-five, inclusive, shall be brought in the  
19 judicial district where the defendant lives or has his usual place  
20 of business.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on the first of October,  
2 nineteen hundred and seventy-four

