

BILL NO. 35-0183

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

October 27, 2023

An Act amending title 4, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 7, section 112 to increase the amount in controversy from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in the Small Claims Division of the Superior Court

PROPOSED BY: Senator Franklin D. Johnson
Co-sponsor: Kenneth L. Gittens

WHEREAS, the amount in controversy for a small claims action was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in 2006;

WHEREAS, increasing the amount in controversy for small claims actions will allow more individuals to have their matters heard expeditiously in the Magistrate Division of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands;

WHEREAS, individuals that have a claim in excess of \$10,000, exclusive of interest and cost, either have to waive the amounts in excess of \$10,000 or file their cases in the Civil Division of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, increasing the amount in controversy for small claims actions will reduce the number of cases filed in the Civil Division of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands;

Now, Therefore;

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 4, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 7, section 112, subsections (a), (b) and (c) are amended by striking “\$10,000” wherever it appears and inserting “\$20,000” in lieu thereof.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill amends title 4, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 7, section 112 to increase the amount in controversy from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in the Small Claims Division of the Superior Court to reduce the case load in the Civil Division.

BR23-0064/January 27, 2023/NS/REVISED/October 20,2023/NS