

Second Supplement to Memorandum 2003-20

**Jurisdictional Limits of Small Claims Cases and Limited Civil Cases
(Additional Comments on Tentative Recommendation)**

Attached to this supplemental memorandum are the following materials relating to the Tentative Recommendation on *Jurisdictional Limits of Small Claims Cases and Limited Civil Cases* (Dec. 2002), which the Commission received at its September 18-19, 2003, meeting:

	<i>Exhibit p.</i>
1. Contractors State License Board (Sept. 15, 2003)	1
2. Gordon & Dieterich, <i>The Sky Will Not Fall: The Effect of Raising Jurisdictional Limits on Small Claims Court Caseloads</i> (Sept. 2003)	2

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gaal
Staff Counsel

**CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD**

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gray Davis, Governor

Via fax

September 15, 2003

Ms. Barbara Gaal
California Law Revision Commission
4000 Middleford Road, D-2
Palo Alto, CA 0403-9739

Dear Ms. Gaal:

As Registrar of the Contractors State License Board (CSLB), I am writing in support of the California Law Revision Commission's recommendation to increase the proposed Small Claims Court limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000. CSLB receives upward of 20,000 complaints from California consumers each year arising out of their dealings with licensed contractors. In these days of budget retrenchment, the Board often refers consumers to Small Claims Court as a possible venue for prompt resolution of the smaller complaints.

Increasing the jurisdictional limits of Small Claims Court from \$5,000 to \$10,000 would increase the number of consumers who can seek prompt resolution of their disputes.

Whether or not the Legislature increases the overall jurisdictional limit, however, it would be helpful for consumers if the Legislature removed the \$4,000 special limitation for defendant guarantors. This limitation applies primarily to two types of consumer remedies—the contractors' license bond and approved alternatives to these bonds – certificates of deposit or cash deposits held by the Board. Last year the Board approved proposed legislation to remove the special limitation but did not go further with its proposal once it saw your tentative proposal for Small Claims Court reform.

The Board supports both the increase in Small Claims Court jurisdiction and the elimination of the special limitation.

If you have any questions, please contact Staff Counsel Ellen Gallagher at 916-255-4116.

Yours truly,

S/

Stephen P. Sand
Registrar

The Sky Will Not Fall:
The Effect of Raising Jurisdictional Limits on Small Claims Court
Caseloads

A Research Study by
HALT - *An Organization of Americans for Legal Reform*



September 16, 2003

Written by Tom Gordon, Senior Counsel
and Amy Dieterich, Program Assistant

Introduction

This study looks at the effect of jurisdictional limit increases on small claims court caseloads in the US from 1984 to 2002. Unless otherwise noted, data is for each state's fiscal year, and jurisdictional increases happened within two months of the start of the fiscal year. Data was collected from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) when available and state administrative offices when NCSC data was not available.

Sixteen states have been excluded from the discussion for various reasons.¹ In Indiana and Tennessee, the small claims jurisdictional limit varies by county, and data is not recorded separately for each county. Delaware was excluded because HALT does not consider it to have a true small claims court, as its lowest level court has no guarantee of simplified procedures and relaxed evidentiary rules. In Pennsylvania there are two small claims court systems, one in Philadelphia (Municipal Court) and one everywhere else (District Court). While separate data is available for each system, there were no increases in the District Court system for the period in which data is available. Therefore, all references to Pennsylvania are references to only the Municipal Court system. In the remaining 12 states that have been excluded, small claims caseloads have not been recorded independently of the other state courts.

In the 34 states included in this study; there have been 63 separate jurisdiction increases during the time period studied.² Of those 63 increases, 45 occurred within two months of the beginning of a fiscal year, and all changes are calculated from the start of that fiscal year. However, 18 increases occurred in the middle of the fiscal year. In those cases, the initial effects of the jurisdictional increase are calculated for the first full fiscal year following the increase.

Of the 63 separate jurisdictional increases, 5 were increases less than \$500, 13 of \$500, 1 of \$800, 16 of \$1000, 3 of \$1250, 8 of \$1500, 1 of \$1600, 7 of \$2000, 4 of \$2500, 3 of \$3000, 2 of \$4000, and 1 of \$5000. For the purposes of this study, they have been grouped into 5 categories: Group A includes raises of up to \$500 (18 instances); B includes raises between \$501 to \$1000 (17 instances); C includes raises between \$1001 and \$2000 (19 instances); D includes raises between \$2001 and \$4999 (8 instances); and E includes all increases of more than \$5,000 (1 instance).

The first portion of this study is devoted to analyzing how an increase in jurisdictional limit, regardless of its size, affects the small claims court caseload. To do this, the study first examines whether historically there is an increase in the caseload in the year that follows the increase. Then, it looks to see whether the change is maintained after five years, or it dissipates. For this study, the range of -5% to 5% change is considered normal variation year to year and not considered as an increase or decrease.

¹ States excluded from this study: Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia.

² In the fifteen states are not part of the study, there were an additional 29 instances where the jurisdictional limit was raised.

The second portion of this study refines the analysis of the first section and examines the specific amount of the jurisdictional increase to see if there is a correlation between the dollar size of the increase and the accompanying change in caseload. Data is analyzed after the first year and the fifth year of the increase as in the section above, with an emphasis on those instances where there was an increase in the caseload after the first year.

Jurisdictional Limit Increase: Overall Analysis

Of the 63 cases from 1984 to 2002 where data was available, there was a slightly positive correlation between an increase in the small claims jurisdiction and the number of cases filed in the first year following the increase. Of all the instances analyzed, 35 jurisdictional increases accompanied some increase in caseload for the first year, and 28 accompanied a decrease. In 38 cases, which comprise more than 60% of all instances, a jurisdictional increase brought no change more than 5% in either direction, which means that half of all jurisdiction changes did not affect the caseload significantly in the first year.

Table 1: First year Percentage Change in Caseload

First Year Change in Caseload	Increase (+)	Decrease (-)
Less than 5%	19 (30%)	19 (30%)
5-10%	9 (14%)	6(10%)
10-15%	2 (3%)	3 (5%)
15-20%	0	0
Greater than 20%	5 (8%)	0
Absolute Totals	35 (56%)	28 (44%)
Statistically Relevant Totals*	16 (25%)	9 (14%)
*The range of -5% to 5% change is considered normal year-to-year variation and not statistically significant.		

As Table 1 shows, on only 16 occasions, representing 25% of all jurisdictional increases, was a jurisdictional increase followed by a significantly increased caseload. In 9 instances where there was a jurisdictional increase (14% of all jurisdictional increases), there was a *decrease* in the caseload of 5 to 15% in the following year. In the majority of cases, though (38 out of 63, or 60%), there was no significant change in caseload following a jurisdictional increase. (See Chart 1 at the end of this paper for a graphical representation.)

In the 16 instances where a jurisdictional limit increase was accompanied by a statistically relevant increase in the caseload, this study looked at the caseload five years later to see if those changes were maintained. Three of these jurisdictional increases occurred too recently for such an analysis. Of the thirteen remaining instances, in only six cases (46%) did a significant (i.e., greater than five percent) increase in caseload remain after five years. In the other seven instances (54%), initial increases in caseload dissipated during the following five-year period to previous levels. In sum, the outcome

of the 63 jurisdictional increases follows no set pattern or rule after the first year—an increase in the jurisdictional limit is only slightly more likely to raise the caseload than it is to lower it, and the most likely outcome is nothing at all. Of the 63 cases of jurisdictional increase in the small claims limit from 1984 to 2002, only six (10%) were accompanied by a significant increase in caseload that was maintained five years later.

Jurisdictional Limit Increase: Analysis by Dollar Amount

This portion of the study looks at the effects of specific dollar amount increases on small claims caseloads to see if larger dollar increases had more of an effect on the caseload than smaller ones.

The data show that the effects of an increase in the jurisdictional limit do not grow with the amount of that increase. In fact, the statistical trends are consistent independent of the dollar amount of the increase. All limit increases, from \$500 to \$10,000 were more likely to have no effect than any effect. Increases of amounts up to \$500 had no effect 71% of the time, and increases of \$2001 to \$4999 had no effect 80% of the time—showing that even with up to 10 times the jurisdictional increase, small claims caseloads were no more likely to be increased. In Table 2 below, the section shaded gray represents those cases where an increase in the jurisdictional limit had no significant effect.

Table 2: First Year Effects of Jurisdictional Limit Increases

Dollar Increase	-10-15% Change	-5-10% Change	<-5% Change	<5% Change	5-10% Change	10-15% Change	15-20% Change	>20% Change	Totals
<=\$500	0	2 (11%)	7 (39%)	6 (33%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)	0	1 (6%)	18
\$501-1000	2 (12%)	2 (12%)	3 (17%)	4 (24%)	3 (18%)	1 (6%)	0	2 (12%)	17
\$1001-2000	0	1 (5%)	6 (32%)	6 (32%)	4 (21%)	0	0	2 (11%)	19
\$2001-4999	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	3 (38%)	3 (38%)	0	0	0	0	8
>\$5000	0	0	0	0	1 (100%)	0	0	0	1
Totals	3	6	19	19	9	2	0	5	63

If there is an effect, it is usually small and transient. Looking at the average small claims caseload increase in the first year (shown in the table below), sorted by size of increase, only in one case is the average higher than 5%.

Table 3: Average Caseload Increase during the First Year

Average % increase for < or = \$500	+2.1 %
Average % increase for \$501-1000	+1.9 %
Average % increase for \$1001-2000	+3.2%
Average % increase for \$2001-4999	-.87%
Average % increase for >\$5000	+9%
Average increase for all dollar amounts	2.14%

Putting aside the single data point included under “increase of > \$5000,” jurisdictional limit increases between \$1000 and \$2000 increase the caseload limit the most in the first year - on average 3.2%. However, most of the change in caseload is not permanent. As Table 4 shows below, five years later, only one of the states that raised limits between \$1001 and \$2000 was still at a higher caseload level than before the increase. In fact, for all categories of increase, substantial growth in the first year usually dissipates in the following years. For a graphical representation of this data, refer to Figure 2 in the Appendix.

Table 4: Fifth Year Effects of Jurisdictional Limit Increases

Dollar Increase	<5% Change	5-10% Change	10-15% Change	15-20% Change	>20% Change	Totals
<=\$500	1	0	0	0	2	3
\$501-1000	2	1	0	1	0	4
\$1001-2000	4	0	0	0	1	5
\$2001-4999	0	1	0	0	0	1
>\$5000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7	2	0	1	3	13

To summarize, the dollar amount of the increase does not have a positive correlation with the size of the caseload increase. For every category, the most probable outcome of a jurisdictional increase is “no significant change.” In only one category (\$1001 to \$2000) was the average percent change greater than 5%. In those instances where there was a significant increase in the caseload for the first year, the change completely dissipated in most instances by the fifth year.

Appendix:

Figure 1: Small Claims Caseload Percentage Changes for the First Year

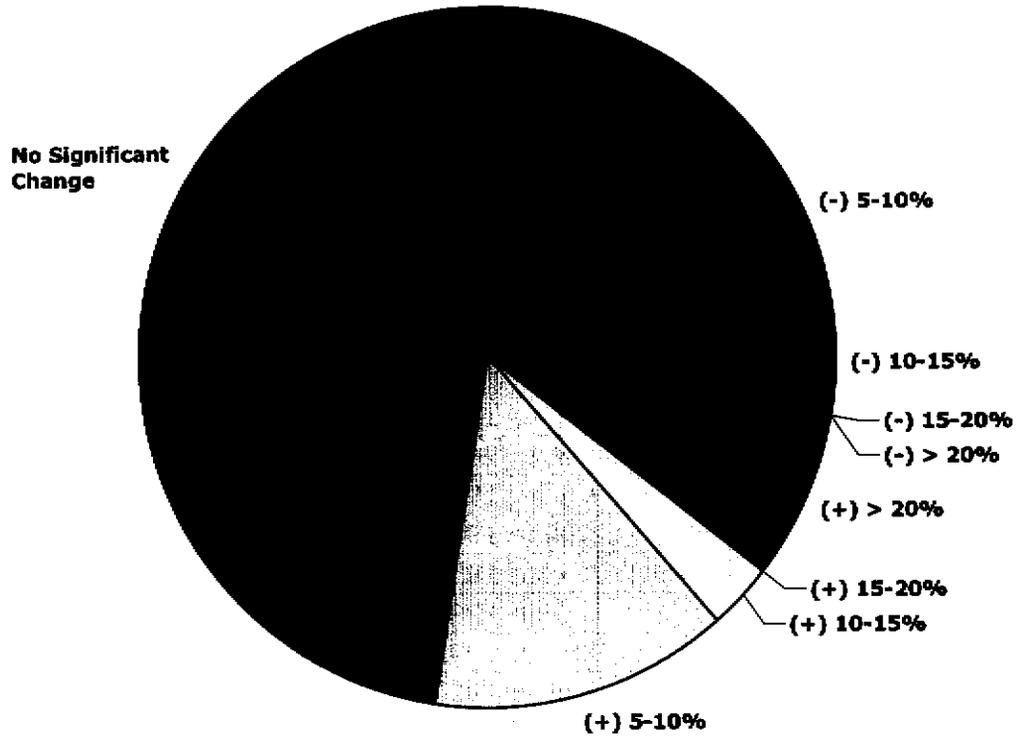


Figure 2: Small Claims Caseload Percentage Increases for the Fifth Year

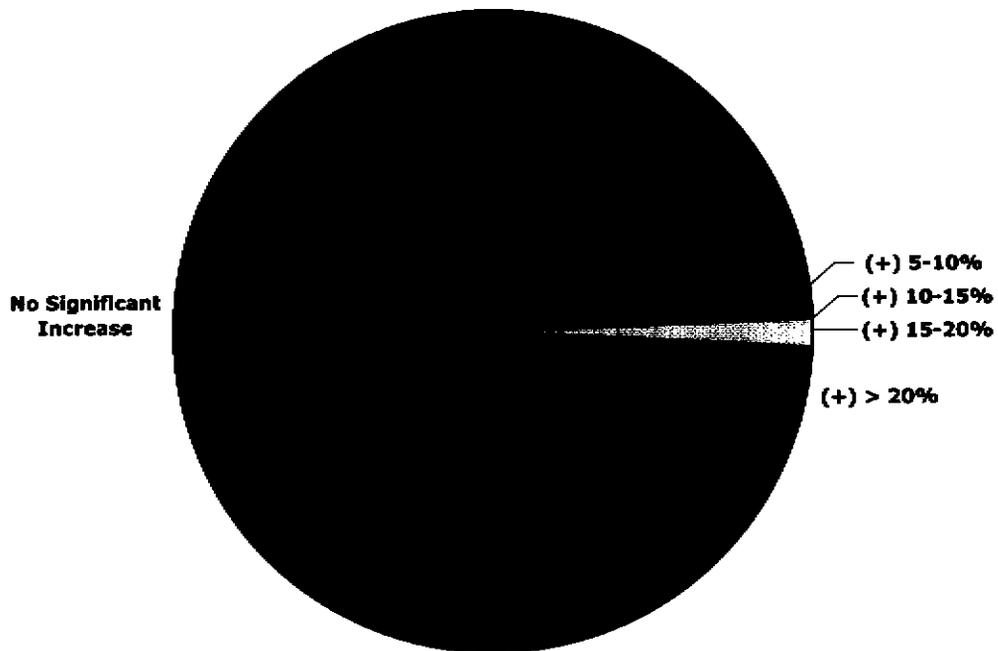


Chart 1: Individual Jurisdictional Increases from 1984 to 2002: Sorted by First Year Effect of Jurisdictional Increase

Effect of the Increase	State (Year)	Amount	Dollar Change
Less than 5% Caseload Growth	Alabama 1996	\$1500=>\$3000	1500
	Arizona 1988	\$500=>\$1000	500
	Florida 1996	\$2500-5000	2500
	Iowa 1995	\$2000=>\$4000	2000
	Kansas 1985	\$500-1000	500
	Kentucky 1989	\$1000-1500	500
	Maine 1996	\$3000-4500	1500
	Missouri 1994	\$1500-3000	1500
	Nebraska 1990	\$1500=>\$1800	300
	Nebraska 1995	\$1800=>\$2100	300
	Nebraska 2000	\$2100=>\$2400	300
	New York 1994	\$2000=>\$3000	1000
	North Carolina 1993	\$2000=>\$3000	1000
	North Dakota 1995	\$3000=>\$5000	2000
	Ohio 1992	\$1000=>\$2000	1000
	South Dakota 1996	\$4000-8000	4000
	Washington 1987	\$1000-2000	1000
Washington 2000	\$2500-4000	1500	
5% to 10% Caseload Growth	Alabama 1990	\$1000=>\$1500	500
	Arizona 1996	\$1500=>\$2500	1000
	Connecticut 1999	\$2500-3500	1000
	Michigan 1999	\$1750-3000	1250
	New Hampshire 1987	\$1500-2500	1000
	Oregon 1990	\$2500-4500	2000
	Pennsylvania (Municipal) 1996	\$5000=>\$10,000	5000
	South Dakota 1994	\$2000-4000	2000
	West Virginia 1992	\$1500-\$3000	1500
10% to 15% Caseload Growth	Idaho 1999	\$3000-4000	1000
	Massachusetts 1985	\$1200=>\$1500	300

More Than 15% Caseload Growth	Alabama 1984	\$500=>\$1000	500
	Arkansas 1996	\$3000=> 5000	2000
	Florida 1984	\$1500-2500	1000
	Wisconsin 1988	\$1000=>\$2000	1000
	Wyoming 1989	\$750-2000	1250

Caseload Decrease	Alaska 1997	\$5000=>\$7500	2500
	Arizona 1990	\$1000=>\$1500	500
	California 1988	\$1500-2000	500
	California 1991	\$2000-5000	3000
	Colorado 1995	\$3500-5000	1500
	Connecticut 1984	\$1000-1500	500
	Connecticut 1988	\$1500-2000	500
	Connecticut 1994	\$2000-2500	500
	DC 1984	\$750=>\$2000	1250
	DC1994	\$2000=>\$5000	3000
	Hawaii 1992	\$2500=>\$3500	1000
	Idaho 1991	\$2000-\$3000	1000
	Illinois 1995	\$2500-5000	2500
	Kansas 1994	\$1000=>\$1800	800
	Maine 1992	\$1400-3000	1600
	Massachusetts 1993	\$1500=>\$2000	500
	Michigan 1992	\$1500=>\$1750	250
	Minnesota 1994	\$6000=>\$7500	1500
	Missouri 1987	\$1000-1500	500
	N. Hampshire 1997	\$2500-5000	2500
	New York 1986	\$1500-2000	500
	North Carolina 1999	\$3000=>\$4000	1000
	Ohio 1995	\$2000-3000	1000
	Oregon 1999	\$3500=>\$5000	1500
	Utah 1991	\$1000-2000	1000
	Utah1992	\$2000-5000	3000
	Vermont 1992	\$2500-3500	1000
	West Virginia 1994	\$3000=>\$5000	2000
	Wisconsin 1994	\$2000=>\$4000	2000

Chart 2: Small Claims Caseload Study Data

ALABAMA

FY: 10/1-9/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	% Change
Limit Increased	1984	\$500=>\$1000	76,694	
After Increase	1985	\$1000	94,594	+23.3%
Five Years Later	1990	\$1000=>\$1500	109,593	+42.9%
Increased 4/1990	1990	\$1000=>\$1500	109,593	
After Increase	1991	\$1500	118,589	+8.2%
Five Years Later	1995	\$1500	106,610	-2.8%
Increased 7/1/96	1996	\$1500=>\$3000	107,916	
After Increase	1997	\$3000	112,219	+4.0%
Five Years Later	2001	\$3000	99,945	-8.0

ALASKA

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	% Change
Increased 7/1/97	1997	\$5000=>\$7500	11,469	
After Increase	1998	\$7500	10,757	-6.2%
Five Years Later	2002	\$7500	11,049	-3.8%

ARIZONA

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 7/1/88	1988	\$500=>\$1000	40,729	
After Increase	1989	\$1000	38,312	-5.9%
Five Years Later	1993	\$1000	32,650	-25.1%
Increased 7/1/90	1990	\$1000=>\$1500	40,121	
After Increase	1991	\$1500	37,310	-7.0%
Five Years Later	1995	\$1500	28,252	-42.1%
Increased 7/1/96	1996	\$1500=>\$2500	28,593	
After Increase	1997	\$2500	30,913	+8.1%
Five Years Later	2001	\$2500	28,882	-1.0

ARKANSAS

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1996	\$3000	24,575	
After Increase	1997	\$5000	39,481	+60.7%
Five Years Later	2001	\$5000	54,176	+120.5%

CALIFORNIA

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	% Change
Before Increase	1991	\$2000- \$5000	515,363	
After Increase	1992	\$5000	548,339	+6.0%%
Five Years Later	1996	\$5000	430,991	-19.6%

COLORADO

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	% Change
Before Increase	1995	\$3500	20,203	
After Increase	1996	\$5000	20,200	-.0001%
* Five year increase is not shown because of no data.				

CONNECTICUT

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	% Change
Before Increase	1984	\$1000-1500	73,096	
After Increase	1985	\$1500	66,167	-9.5%
Five Years Later	1989	\$2000	60,025	-21.7%
Before Increase	1988	\$1500	59,633	
After Increase	1989	\$2000	60,025	+0.66%
Five Years Later	1993	\$2000	70,066	+14.9%
Before Increase	1994	\$2000-2500	69,197	
After Increase	1995	\$2500	66,978	-3.2%
Five Years Later	1999	\$2500	62,163	-11.3%
Before Increase	2000	\$2500-\$3500	65,323	
After Increase	2001	\$3500	71,475	+9.4%

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 10/30/84	1984	\$750=>\$2000	25,323	
After Increase	1985	\$2000	36,046	+42.3%
Five Years Later	1989	\$2000	44,686	+76.5%
Increased 8/23/94	1994	\$2000=>\$5000	29,927	
After Increase	1995	\$5000	40,094	+34.0%
Five Years Later	1999	\$5000	26,314	-13.7%

FLORIDA

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1984	\$1500-2500	163,171	
After Increase	1985	\$2500	207,492	+27.2%
Five Years Later	1989	\$2500	192,386	+18.0%
Before Increase	1996	\$2500-5000	112,813	
After Increase	1997	\$5000	116,903	+3.6%
Five Years Later	2001	\$5000	176,760	+56.0%

HAWAII

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 7/1/92	1992	\$2500=>\$3500	5,681	
After Increase	1993	\$3500	5,401	-10.2%
Five Years Later	1997	\$3500	5,573	-2.0%

IDAHO

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1991	\$2000-\$3000	14,371	
After Increase	1992	\$3000	13,422	-6.6%
Five Years Later	1996	\$3000	15,333	+6.2%
Before Increase	1999	\$3000	19,247	
After Increase	2000	\$4000	21,397	+11.2%

ILLINOIS

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1995	\$1000- \$2500	117,610	
After Increase	1996	\$2500	113,860	-3.2%
Five Years Later	2000	\$2500	115,127	-2.1%

IOWA

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 4/25/95	1995	\$2000=>\$4000	77,506	
After Increase	1996	\$4000	79,129	+2.1%
Five Years Later	2000	\$4000	83,528	+7.7%

KANSAS

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1985	\$500-\$1000	14,429	
After Increase	1986	\$1000	15,096	+4.6%
Five Years Later	1990	\$1000	18,718	+29.0%
Increased 4/25/94	1994	\$1000=>\$1800	15,493	
After Increase	1995	\$1800	16,023	+3.4%
Five Years Later	1999	\$1800	15,476	-0.1%

KENTUCKY

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1989	\$1000-\$1500	28,866	
After Increase	1990	\$1500	29,273	+1.4%
Five Years Later	1994	\$1500	28,422	-1.5%

MAINE

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1992	\$1400-\$3000	11,033	
After Increase	1993	\$3000	9,997	-9.4%
Five Years Later	1997	\$4500	10,113	-9%
Before Increase	1996	\$3000-\$4500	9,772	
After Increase	1997	\$4500	10,113	+3.5%
Five Years Later	2001	\$4500	10,323	+5.3%

MASSACHUSETTS

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 10/1/85	1985	\$1200=>\$1500	137,826	
After Increase	1986	\$1500	152,331	+10.5%
Five Years Later	1990	\$1500	168,014	+18.0%
Increased 10/1/93	1993	\$1500=>\$2000	130,097	
After Increase	1994	\$2000	138,433	+6.4%
Five Years Later	1998	\$2000	141,920	+8.3%

MICHIGAN

FY: 10/1-9/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 7/1/92	1992	\$1500=>\$1750	114,446	
After Increase	1993	\$1750	110,423	-3.5%
Five Years Later	1997	\$1750	99,827	-14.6%
Increase 1/1/2000	1999	\$1750-\$3000	89,842	
After Increase	2000	\$3000	98,173	+9.3%

MINNESOTA

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 7/1/94	1994	\$6000=>\$7500	83,752	
After Increase	1995	\$7500	83,660	-0.1%
Five Years Later	1999	\$7500	66,897	-25.2%

MISSOURI

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	% Change
Before Increase	1987	\$1000-\$1500	20,982	
After Increase	1988	\$1500	20,702	-1.3%
Five Years Later	1992	\$1500	22,334	+6.0%
Before Increase	1994	\$1500-\$3000	20,154	
After Increase	1995	\$3000	21,067	+4.5%
Five Years Later	1999	\$3000	20,489	+1.6%

NEBRASKA

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 7/1/90	1990	\$1500=>\$1800	11,974	
After Increase	1991	\$1800	12,463	+4.1%
Five Years Later	1995	\$1800=>\$2100	10,958	-9.3%
Increased 7/1/95	1995	\$1800=>\$2100	10,958	
After Increase	1996	\$2100	10,999	+0.37%
Five Years Later	2000	\$2100=>\$2400	9,462	-15.8%
Increased 7/1/00	2000	\$2100=>\$2400	9,462	
After Increase	2001	\$2400	9,919	+4.8%

NEW HAMPSHIRE

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1987	\$1500	29,612	
After Increase	1988	\$2500	31,556	+6.6%
Five Years Later	1992	\$2500	20,367	-30.0%
Before Increase	1997	\$2500-5000	18,733	
After Increase	1998	\$5000	16,458	-12.1%
Five Years Later		\$5000	No Data Available	

NEW YORK

FY: 4/1-3/31

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1986	\$1500	108,745	
After Increase	1987	\$2000	107,160	-1.5%
Five Years Later	1991	\$2000	123,987	+12.3%
Increased 7/31/94	1994	\$2000=>\$3000	121,329	
After Increase	1995	\$3000	120,933	-0.33%
Five Years Later	1999	\$3000	104,462	-16.2%

NORTH CAROLINA

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 10/1/92	1992	\$2000	260,289	
After Increase	1993	\$2000=>\$3000	237,729	-8.7%
Five Years Later	1997	\$3000	271,994	+4.3%
Increased 10/1/99	1999	\$3000=>\$4000	278,311	
After Increase	2000	\$4000	287,505	+3.3%

NORTH DAKOTA

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 8/1/95	1995	\$3000=>\$5000	6,300	
After Increase	1996	\$5000	6,525	+3.6%
Five Years Later	2000	\$5000	5,882	-7.1%

OHIO

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 3/24/92	1992	\$1000=>\$2000	100,706	
After Increase	1993	\$2000	96,753	-3.9%
Five Years Later	1997	\$2000	89,778	-12.2%
Before Increase	1995	\$2000-3000	87,946	
After Increase	1996	\$3000	89,707	+2.0%
Five Years Later	2000	\$3000	91,135	+3.5%

OREGON

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 4/20/99	1999	\$3500=>\$5000	57,816	
After Increase	2000	\$5000	63,054	+10.8%

PENNSYLVANIA**Court: Municipal Court****FY: 7/1-6/30**

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 1/22/96	1996	\$5000=>\$10,000	149,876	
After Increase	1997	\$10,000	163,552	+9.8%
Five Years Later	2001	\$10,000	135,475	-9.6%

Court: District of Justice Court**FY: 7/1-6/30**

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1991	\$4000-8000	No Data Available	
After Increase	1992	\$8000	No Data Available	
Five Years Later	1996	\$8000	159,583	

SOUTH DAKOTA**FY: 7/1-6/30**

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1994	\$2000-4000	24,605	
After Increase	1995	\$4000	26,443	+7.5%
Five Years Later	1999	\$4000	32,721	+24.0%
Before Increase	1996	\$4000-8000	31,255	
After Increase	1997	\$8000	32,556	+4.2%
Five Years Later	2001	\$8000	32,633	+4.2%

UTAH**FY: 7/1-6/30**

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1991	\$1000-2000	43,543	
After Increase/ Limit Increase	1992	\$2000-5000	37,494	-13.9%
After Increase	1993	\$5000	35,761	-4.6%
Five Years Later	1997	\$5000	39,413	+4.8%
Increase in 1991 was too close to increase in 1992 to calculate five year effects.				

VERMONT**FY: 7/1-6/30**

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1992	\$2500-3500	11,733	
After Increase	1993	\$3500	10,811	-7.9%
Five Years Later	1997	\$3500	10,183	-15.2

WASHINGTON

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	2000	\$2500-4000	23,306	
After Increase	2001	\$4000	24,296	+4.2%

WEST VIRGINIA

FY: 1/1-12/31

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increase 3/29/92	1992	\$1500=>\$3000	38,803	
After Increase	1993	\$3000	No Data Available	
Increased 3/30/94	1994	\$3000=>\$5000	40,814	
After Increase	1995	\$5000	46,542	+14.0%
Five Years Later	1999	\$5000	46,007	+11.3%

WISCONSIN

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Increased 7/1/88	1988	\$1000=>\$2000	197,487	
After Increase	1989	\$2000	159,829	-19.1%
Five Years Later	1993	\$2000	211,231	+6.5%
Increased 4/1/94	1994	\$2000=>\$4000	137,940	
After Increase	1995	\$4000	153,779	+11.5%
Five Years Later	1999	\$4000	145,097	+5.0%

WYOMING

FY: 7/1-6/30

Increase Timeline	Fiscal Year	Limit	Caseload	%Change
Before Increase	1989	\$750-2000	8,392	
After Increase	1990	\$2000	11,359	+35.4%
Five Years Later	1994	\$2000	5,801	-44.6%
Increased 7/1/97	1997	\$2000=>\$3000	6,049	
After Increase	1998	\$3000	6,346	+4.9%
Five Years Later	2002	\$3000	No Data	