

\$120,000 limit for lower courts

THE District Court may soon deal with claims of up to \$120,000 — double the present limit.

The ceiling at the Small Claims Tribunal may also be raised from \$8,000 to \$15,000, if the Legislative Council passes a bill proposing the changes.

A saving of \$1.5 million in court costs is expected each year because cases that would be heard in higher courts can be dealt with in the lower courts.

The proposed changes were made in response to the recommendations of the Robinson report.

Mr Peter Robinson, a senior British judiciary official who was commissioned to do the six-month study, said the District Court should take over some of the High Court's work as the latter was overloaded.

He also suggested that the financial limit be raised to \$250,000, or more than double the proposed increase.

The Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 1988 was gazetted yesterday and will be tabled in the Legislative Council later this month.