

2021 -- H 5303

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--PROCEDURE GENERALLY --
EQUITY PRACTICE

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Vella-Wilkinson, Knight, Biah, and Giraldo

Date Introduced: January 29, 2021

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 9-14-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 9-14 entitled "Equity
2 Practice" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **9-14-26. ~~Master's conveyance of property~~ Arbitrator's conveyance of property.**

4 If a judgment directs a party to execute a conveyance of land or to deliver deeds or other
5 documents or to perform any other specified acts and the party fails to comply within the time
6 specified, the court may direct the act to be done at the cost of the disobedient party by ~~a master~~ [an](#)
7 [arbitrator](#) in chancery or some other person appointed by the court, and the act when so done has like
8 effect as if done by the party.

9 SECTION 2. The title of Chapter 9-15 of the General Laws entitled "Referees, Auditors,
10 And Masters In Chancery" is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 ~~CHAPTER 9-15~~

12 ~~Referees, Auditors, And Masters In Chancery~~

13 [CHAPTER 9-15](#)

14 [REFEREES, AUDITORS, AND ARBITRATORS IN CHANCERY](#)

15 SECTION 3. Sections 9-15-19, 9-15-20 and 9-15-21 of the General Laws in Chapter 9-15
16 entitled "Referees, Auditors, And Masters In Chancery" are hereby amended to read as follows:

17 **9-15-19. ~~Appointment of masters in chancery -- Rules and orders~~ Appointment of**
18 **arbitrators in chancery -- Rules and orders.**

1 The superior court, by a majority of the justices thereof, shall appoint in each county one
2 or more standing ~~masters~~ [arbiters](#) in chancery to hold office during the pleasure of the court; and
3 may make all such rules and orders, not contrary to law, with regard to proceedings before ~~masters~~
4 [arbiters](#) in chancery, their reports, and exceptions to and hearings on them, as to it shall seem
5 expedient.

6 **9-15-20. Protection of parties and witnesses in referred matters.**

7 ~~Masters~~ [Arbiters](#) in chancery, auditors, and referees shall have the same power to issue
8 writs of protection to parties and witnesses in matters pending before them as is possessed by the
9 courts from which they derive their appointment, and the signing of such writs by any one ~~master~~
10 [arbiter](#) , auditor, or referee, who has been duly sworn, shall be sufficient.

11 **9-15-21. Stenographic reports and transcripts.**

12 ~~Masters~~ [Arbiters](#) in chancery, auditors, and referees may employ stenographers to report
13 and transcribe the testimony taken in causes referred to them, and the cost of the reports and
14 transcripts shall be allowed as part of the costs.

15 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This act would delete all uses of the word master as it relates to courts and replace it with
- 2 the word arbiter.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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