

SENATE BILL 551

D3
SB 775/19 – JPR

0lr2282
CF HB 727

By: **Senators Waldstreicher, Hough, Lee, Miller, Ready, Smith, and West**
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2020
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Civil Jury Trials – Amount in Controversy**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the amount in controversy in a civil action in which a party
4 may not demand a jury trial; providing for the construction and application of this
5 Act; making this Act contingent on the passage and ratification of a certain
6 constitutional amendment; and generally relating to jury trials in civil actions.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
9 Section 4–402(e)(1)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 4–402.

16 (e) (1) In a civil action in which the amount in controversy does not exceed
17 **[\$15,000] \$30,000**, exclusive of attorney’s fees if attorney’s fees are recoverable by law or
18 contract, a party may not demand a jury trial pursuant to the Maryland Rules.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be construed
20 to affect any requirement under Maryland Rule 2–325 for withdrawal of an election for jury
21 trial after a party may not demand a jury trial pursuant to the Maryland Rules.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to
23 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 application to any civil action filed before the effective date of this Act.

2 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on the
3 passage of Chapter ___ (S.B. ___/H.B. ___)(0lr2290/0lr2291) of the Acts of the General
4 Assembly of 2020, a constitutional amendment, and its ratification by the voters of the
5 State.

6 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of
7 Section 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect on the proclamation of the Governor that the
8 constitutional amendment, having received a majority of the votes cast at the general
9 election, has been adopted by the people of Maryland.