

CHAPTER 315

(Senate Bill 229)

AN ACT concerning

Garrett County – Local Government Tort Claims Act – Inclusion of Specified Nonprofit Entity

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of a “local government” under the Local Government Tort Claims Act to include a certain nonprofit corporation in Garrett County; providing that a certain notice requirement does not apply to certain actions against a certain nonprofit corporation in Garrett County or its employees; and generally relating to the inclusion of a certain nonprofit entity in Garrett County under the Local Government Tort Claims Act.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 5–301 and 5–304
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

5–301.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “Actual malice” means ill will or improper motivation.
- (c) (1) “Employee” means any person who was employed by a local government at the time of the act or omission giving rise to potential liability against that person.
- (2) “Employee” includes:
 - (i) Any employee, either within or without a classified service or merit system;

- (ii) An appointed or elected official; or
 - (iii) A volunteer who, at the request of the local government, and under its control and direction, was providing services or performing duties.
- (d) “Local government” means:
- (1) A chartered county established under Article 25A of the Code;
 - (2) A code county established under Article 25B of the Code;
 - (3) A board of county commissioners established or operating under Article 25 of the Code;
 - (4) Baltimore City;
 - (5) A municipal corporation established or operating under Article 23A of the Code;
 - (6) The Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission;
 - (7) The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission;
 - (8) The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority;
 - (9) A community college or board of trustees for a community college established or operating under Title 16 of the Education Article, not including Baltimore City Community College;
 - (10) A county public library or board of trustees of a county public library established or operating under Title 23, Subtitle 4 of the Education Article;
 - (11) The Enoch Pratt Free Library or Board of Trustees of the Enoch Pratt Free Library;
 - (12) The Washington County Free Library or the Board of Trustees of the Washington County Free Library;
 - (13) A special taxing district;

(14) A nonprofit community service corporation incorporated under State law that is authorized to collect charges or assessments;

(15) Housing authorities created under Division II of the Housing and Community Development Article;

(16) A sanitary district, sanitary commission, metropolitan commission, or other sewer or water authority established or operating under public local law or public general law;

(17) The Baltimore Metropolitan Council;

(18) The Howard County Economic Development Authority;

(19) The Howard County Mental Health Authority;

(20) A commercial district management authority established by a county or municipal corporation if provided under local law;

(21) The Baltimore City Police Department;

(22) A regional library resource center or a cooperative library corporation established under Title 23, Subtitle 2 of the Education Article;

(23) Lexington Market, Inc., in Baltimore City;

(24) The nonprofit corporation serving as the local public transportation authority for Carroll County pursuant to a contract or memorandum of understanding with Carroll County (Carroll County Senior Overland Service, Inc., t/a Carroll Area Transit System); [and]

(25) The nonprofit corporation serving as the animal control and licensing authority for Carroll County pursuant to a contract or memorandum of understanding with Carroll County (the Humane Society of Carroll County, Inc.); **AND**

(26) THE NONPROFIT CORPORATION SERVING AS THE LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FOR GARRETT COUNTY PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT OR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH GARRETT COUNTY (GARRETT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.).

(a) This section does not apply to an action against a nonprofit corporation described in § 5–301(d)(24) [or], (25), **OR (26)** of this subtitle or its employees.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (a) and (d) of this section, an action for unliquidated damages may not be brought against a local government or its employees unless the notice of the claim required by this section is given within 180 days after the injury.

(c) (1) Except in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Harford County, and Prince George’s County, the notice shall be given in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested, bearing a postmark from the United States Postal Service, by the claimant or the representative of the claimant, to the county commissioner, county council, or corporate authorities of a defendant local government, or:

- (i) In Baltimore City, to the City Solicitor;
- (ii) In Howard County, to the County Executive; and
- (iii) In Montgomery County, to the County Executive.

(2) In Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Harford County, and Prince George’s County, the notice shall be given in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested, bearing a postmark from the United States Postal Service, by the claimant or the representative of the claimant, to the county solicitor or county attorney.

(3) The notice shall be in writing and shall state the time, place, and cause of the injury.

(d) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, unless the defendant can affirmatively show that its defense has been prejudiced by lack of required notice, upon motion and for good cause shown the court may entertain the suit even though the required notice was not given.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2007.