

HOUSE BILL 1302

D3

4lr2771

By: **Delegates Parrott, Cluster, Glass, Hough, and Serafini**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2014

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agreements to Defend or Pay the Cost of Defense – Void**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that certain agreements to defend or pay the costs of
4 defending certain promisees or indemnitees against liability for certain
5 damages are against public policy and are void and unenforceable under certain
6 circumstances; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating
7 to certain agreements to defend or pay the costs of defending certain promisees
8 or indemnitees.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
11 Section 5–401(a)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

17 5–401.

18 (a) (1) A covenant, promise, agreement, or understanding in, or in
19 connection with or collateral to, a contract or agreement relating to architectural,
20 engineering, inspecting, or surveying services, or the construction, alteration, repair,
21 or maintenance of a building, structure, appurtenance or appliance, including moving,
22 demolition, and excavating connected with those services or that work, purporting to
23 indemnify the promisee against liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to any
24 person or damage to property caused by or resulting from the sole negligence of the
25 promisee or indemnitee, or the agents or employees of the promisee or indemnitee, is
26 against public policy and is void and unenforceable.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2)** A COVENANT, PROMISE, AGREEMENT, OR UNDERSTANDING
2 IN, OR IN CONNECTION WITH OR COLLATERAL TO, A CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT
3 RELATING TO ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING, INSPECTING, OR SURVEYING
4 SERVICES, OR THE CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, REPAIR, OR MAINTENANCE OF
5 A BUILDING, STRUCTURE, APPURTENANCE OR APPLIANCE, INCLUDING MOVING,
6 DEMOLITION, AND EXCAVATING CONNECTED WITH THOSE SERVICES OR THAT
7 WORK, PURPORTING TO REQUIRE THE PROMISOR OR INDEMNITOR TO DEFEND
8 OR PAY THE COSTS OF DEFENDING THE PROMISEE OR INDEMNITEE AGAINST
9 LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF BODILY INJURY TO ANY PERSON OR
10 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY CAUSED BY OR RESULTING FROM THE SOLE
11 NEGLIGENCE OF THE PROMISEE OR INDEMNITEE, OR THE AGENTS OR
12 EMPLOYEES OF THE PROMISEE OR INDEMNITEE, IS AGAINST PUBLIC POLICY
13 AND IS VOID AND UNENFORCEABLE.

14 **[(2)](3)** This subsection does not affect the validity of any insurance
15 contract, workers' compensation, any general indemnity agreement required by a
16 surety as a condition of execution of a bond for a construction or other contract, or any
17 other agreement issued by an insurer.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
19 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have
20 any effect on or application to any cause of action arising before the effective date of
21 this Act.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2014.