

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 955 (Delegate Bissett, et al.)
Judiciary

Statute of Repose - Durable Goods

This bill prohibits a product liability action for “harm” caused by a “durable good” unless the complaint is filed within: (1) 15 years after the sale, lease, or delivery of the product to its initial consumer, user, or other nonseller; or (2) 18 years after the date of manufacture, if earlier.

Certain actions for indemnity or contribution brought by manufacturers, sellers, or lessors, as well as specified product liability actions involving express warranties, are exempted. The bill prohibits specified constructions, and does not apply to any action resulting solely from exposure to asbestos or lead paint.

The bill is effective January 1, 1997, and must be construed prospectively only.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill’s limitations on product liability actions should not have a measurable effect on the operations or finances of the Judiciary.

Local Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 1996
ncs

Analysis by: Guy Cherry
Reviewed by: Robert C. Bates

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 841-3710
(301) 858-3710