

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 626 (Senator Bromwell)

Judicial Proceedings

Civil Actions - Limitation on Awards for Noneconomic Damages - Substances

This bill excludes from the noneconomic damages caps any action for damages for personal injury or wrongful death in which contact by a person with a substance before July 1, 1986 was a cause that ultimately resulted in personal injury or death to the person.

Under current law, in any action for damages for personal injury in which the cause of action arises on or after July 1, 1986, an award for noneconomic damages may not exceed \$350,000.

In any action for damages for personal injury or wrongful death in which the cause of action arises on or after October 1, 1994, an award for noneconomic damages may not exceed \$500,000, increasing by \$15,000 on October 1 of each year beginning October 1, 1995.

The bill applies to any case pending or filed on or after the bill's October 1, 1999 effective date, but may not be applied to any case in which a final judgment has been entered and in which appeals, if any, have been exhausted before the bill's effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Office of the Attorney General, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 1, 1999

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