

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 690

(Senator Haines, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Civil Actions - Limitation of Actions - Land Surveyors

This bill reduces the time in which a person may seek recovery for damages incurred for an error in a survey of land from 20 to 10 years after the survey, or within 3 years after the discovery of the error, whichever occurs first.

The bill applies prospectively to causes of action arising on or after the bill's October 1, 2004 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to have a significant impact on judicial operations or expenditures.

Local Effect: Minimal – see above.

Small Business Effect: The bill would reduce the time period in which certain lawsuits could be brought against surveyors, but its effect on small businesses is expected to be minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not seek contribution or indemnity for damages incurred for an error in a survey of land unless an action for damages is brought within 20 years of the survey, or within three years after the discovery of the error, whichever occurs first.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 625 of 2003 received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 29, 2004
n/jr

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