

SENATE BILL 468

D3
SB 403/08 – JPR

9lr2072

By: **Senators Stone ~~and Zirkin~~, Zirkin, Forehand, Frosh, Garagiola, and Gladden**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2009
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 23, 2009

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Jury Trials in Civil Actions – Amount in Controversy**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the amount in controversy in a civil action in which a
4 party may not demand a jury trial; providing for the construction and
5 application of this Act; making this Act contingent on the passage and
6 ratification of a certain constitutional amendment; and generally relating to
7 jury trials in civil actions.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
10 Section 4–402(e)(1)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

16 4–402.

17 (e) (1) In a civil action in which the amount in controversy does not
18 exceed ~~[\$10,000]~~ **\$20,000**, exclusive of attorney’s fees if attorney’s fees are recoverable

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 by law or contract, a party may not demand a jury trial pursuant to the Maryland
2 Rules.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be
4 construed to affect any requirement under Maryland Rule 2-325 for withdrawal of an
5 election for jury trial after a party files a demand electing a trial by jury.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
7 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have
8 any effect on or application to any civil action filed before the effective date of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on
10 the passage of Chapter ___ (S.B.___/H.B.___) (9lr2074) of the Acts of the General
11 Assembly of 2009, a constitutional amendment, and its ratification by the voters of the
12 State.

13 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions
14 of Section 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect on the proclamation of the Governor
15 that the constitutional amendment, having received a majority of the votes cast at the
16 general election, has been adopted by the people of Maryland.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.