

Chapter 225

(Senate Bill 118)

AN ACT concerning

Courts – Jury Trials in Civil Actions – Amount in Controversy

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 4–402(e)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

4–402.

(e) (1) In a civil action in which the amount in controversy does not exceed ~~[\$10,000]~~ ~~\$20,000~~ \$15,000, exclusive of attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract, a party may not demand a jury trial pursuant to the Maryland Rules.

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

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

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on the passage of Chapter 480 (~~S.B. /H.B.~~) (S.B.119/H.B.434) (0lr0427) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010, a constitutional amendment, and its ratification by the voters of the State.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2010.