

SENATE BILL 986

D3

3lr3241

By: **Senator Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2013

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts and Judicial Proceedings – Cases of Gas Explosion or Gas Leak –**
3 **Damages, Fees, and Costs**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a person bringing a certain action for damages
5 resulting from a gas explosion or gas leak to be awarded a certain amount of
6 compensatory damages, punitive damages, reasonable attorney's fees and
7 expert fees, and court costs; providing for the application of this Act; and
8 generally relating to damages, fees, and costs awarded in cases of gas explosions
9 or gas leaks.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

12 Section 11–113

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

18 **11–113.**

19 **IN AN ACTION FOR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM A GAS EXPLOSION OR GAS**
20 **LEAK, THE PERSON BRINGING THE ACTION MAY BE AWARDED:**

21 **(1) COMPENSATORY DAMAGES EQUAL TO THREE TIMES THE**
22 **AMOUNT OF ACTUAL DAMAGES;**

23 **(2) PUNITIVE DAMAGES;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES AND EXPERT FEES; AND**

2 **(4) COURT COSTS.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
4 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have
5 any effect on or application to any cause of action arising before the effective date of
6 this Act.

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2013.