

HOUSE BILL 1354

D3, E2

EMERGENCY BILL

1lr2920

By: **Delegate Dumais**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2021

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – COVID-19 – Statutory Deadlines**

3 FOR the purpose of tolling or suspending, as applicable, all statutory deadlines related to
4 the initiation of matters required to be filed in a State trial or appellate court,
5 including statutes of limitations, for a certain number of days due to the COVID-19
6 emergency; specifying that a party is not required to prove an inability to comply
7 with an applicable statutory deadline if the expiration of the deadline occurred
8 during the COVID-19 emergency; providing for the application of this Act; making
9 this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to tolling or suspending
10 statutory deadlines due to the COVID-19 emergency.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That, notwithstanding any other law:

13 (1) all statutory deadlines related to the initiation of matters required to
14 be filed in a State trial or appellate court, including statutes of limitations, shall be tolled
15 or suspended, as applicable, by the number of days that the courts are closed to the public
16 due to the COVID-19 emergency, plus an additional time period as determined by the Chief
17 Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

18 (2) a party may not be compelled to prove an inability to comply with an
19 applicable statutory deadline if the expiration of the deadline occurred during the
20 COVID-19 emergency.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to
22 apply retroactively and shall be applied to and interpreted to affect any statutory deadline
23 directly affected by the closure of the courts due to the COVID-19 emergency before the
24 effective date of this Act.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
26 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
2 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
3 enacted.