

SENATE BILL 670

D3
SB 551/20 – JPR

1r1874
CF HB 899

By: **Senator Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 24, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
9 Section 4–402(e)(1)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2020 Replacement Volume)

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

14 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 4–402.

16 (e) (1) In a civil action in which the amount in controversy does not exceed
17 ~~[\$15,000]~~ **\$30,000**, exclusive of attorney’s fees if attorney’s fees are recoverable by law or
18 contract, a party may not demand a jury trial pursuant to the Maryland Rules.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be construed

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.



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1 to affect any requirement under Maryland Rule 2–325 for withdrawal of an election for jury
2 trial after which a party may not demand a jury trial pursuant to the Maryland Rules.

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

6 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on the
7 passage of Chapter ___ (S.B. 669) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2020, a
8 constitutional amendment, and its ratification by the voters of the State.

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.