

10A.

(A) UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED BY THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND EVERY OFFICER, DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, BOARD, COMMISSION, OR OTHER UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT RAISE THE DEFENSE OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY IN THE COURTS OF THIS STATE IN AN ACTION IN CONTRACT BASED UPON A WRITTEN CONTRACT EXECUTED ON BEHALF OF THE STATE, OR ITS DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, BOARD, COMMISSION, OR UNIT BY AN OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF HIS AUTHORITY.

(B) IN ANY SUCH ACTION, THE STATE, OR ITS OFFICER, DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, BOARD, COMMISSION, OR OTHER UNIT OF GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIABLE FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES.

(C) A CLAIM IS BARRED UNLESS THE CLAIMANT FILES SUIT WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THE CLAIM AROSE OR WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER COMPLETION OF THE CONTRACT GIVING RISE TO THE CLAIM, WHICHEVER IS LATER.

(D) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION, THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROVIDE IN THE STATE BUDGET ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR THE SATISFACTION OF ANY FINAL JUDGMENT, AFTER THE EXHAUSTION OF ANY RIGHT OF APPEAL, WHICH HAS BEEN RENDERED AGAINST THE STATE, OR ANY OFFICER, DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, BOARD, COMMISSION, OR OTHER UNIT OF GOVERNMENT IN AN ACTION IN CONTRACT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That new Section 1A be and it is hereby added to Article 23A - Corporations - Municipal, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1973 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 23A - Corporations - Municipal

1A.

(A) UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED BY THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AND EVERY OFFICER, DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, BOARD, COMMISSION, OR OTHER UNIT OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT MAY NOT RAISE THE DEFENSE OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY IN THE COURTS OF THIS STATE IN AN ACTION IN CONTRACT BASED UPON A WRITTEN CONTRACT EXECUTED ON BEHALF OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, OR ITS DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, BOARD, COMMISSION, OR UNIT BY AN OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF HIS AUTHORITY.

(B) IN ANY SUCH ACTION, THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, OR ITS OFFICER, DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, BOARD, COMMISSION, OR OTHER UNIT OF GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIABLE FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES.

(C) A CLAIM IS BARRED UNLESS THE CLAIMANT FILES