

(d) Every suit instituted under this section shall be brought in the appropriate court in the political subdivision in which the contract was to be performed and executed or in the political subdivision where the contractor has his principal place of business and not elsewhere, but no such suit shall be commenced after the term of 1 year after the date of final acceptance of the work performed under the contract. The obligee named in the bond or the trustee for any other security shall not be liable for the payment of any cost or expenses of any such suit.

(e) In the case of contracts of the State of Maryland, or any board, commission, or agency thereof, the aforesaid bonds or other security shall be payable to the State of Maryland and shall be approved by the Attorney General as to form. In the case of all other contracts subject to this section, the bonds or other security shall be payable to the public body concerned, and shall be approved by its attorney as to form.

(f) Bonds, other security, or evidence of any trust account established as security payable to the State of Maryland shall be filed in the office of the State Comptroller. All other bonds, other security, or evidence of any trust account established as security shall be filed in the office of the public body concerned.

(g) The State Comptroller or officer in charge of the office wherein the aforesaid bonds or other security are required to be filed is authorized and directed to furnish, to any person making application therefor who submits an affidavit that he has supplied labor, or materials, for such work and payment therefor has not been made or that he is being sued on any such bond or other security, a certified copy of the bond, of a certified statement of other security provided, or of evidence of any trust account established which copy shall be prima facie evidence of the contents, execution, and delivery of the bond or other security, as applicable. Applicants shall pay for such certified copies such reasonable fees as the State Comptroller or the aforesaid officer shall fix to cover the cost of preparation thereof.

3-502.

No procurement agency of the State may require bid, performance, and payment bonds to be posted if the contract price is less than [\$25,000] \$50,000, unless such bonds are required by federal law or regulation or as a condition to federal assistance.

3-503.

Performance bonds or other security may be required for any procurement of supplies and services over [\$25,000] \$50,000 if the circumstances warrant, as determined by the procurement officer.