

(c) In a civil action under this [subtitle] SECTION, the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees, expert witness fees, and costs.  
43.

(A) IN BALTIMORE COUNTY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE, A PERSON WHO IS EMPLOYED BY AN EMPLOYER WITH ~~LESS~~ FEWER THAN 15 EMPLOYEES AND WHO IS SUBJECTED TO AN ACT OF DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED BY THE COUNTY CODE MAY BRING AND MAINTAIN A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE EMPLOYER WHO COMMITTED THE ALLEGED DISCRIMINATORY ACT FOR CIVIL RELIEF AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(B) (1) AN ACTION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE COMMENCED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ~~THE BALTIMORE COUNTY IN WHICH THE ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION TOOK PLACE~~ NOT LATER THAN 2 YEARS AFTER THE OCCURRENCE OF THE ALLEGED DISCRIMINATORY ACT.

(2) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN ACTION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE COMMENCED SOONER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE AGGRIEVED PERSON FILES A COMPLAINT WITH THE COUNTY AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING VIOLATIONS OF THE COUNTY DISCRIMINATION LAWS.

(C) (1) IN A CIVIL ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COURT MAY ALLOW THE PREVAILING PARTY:

- (I) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF;
- (II) COMPENSATORY DAMAGES, INCLUDING BACK PAY; OR
- (III) BOTH INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND COMPENSATORY DAMAGES.

(2) A PREVAILING PARTY MAY NOT BE AWARDED PUNITIVE DAMAGES UNDER THIS SECTION.

(3) THE COURT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ALLOW THE PREVAILING PARTY REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the provisions of this Act shall be applied prospectively to acts occurring on or after October 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any case filed under this Act that is pending in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County upon the termination of this Act shall continue under and remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court as if this Act were in effect.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be void if the General Assembly enacts legislation ~~granting that grants~~ the Maryland Commission on Human Relations jurisdiction over discrimination complaints against an employer who has one or more employees and that provides for remedies comparable to the remedies provided by this Act, at which time the provisions of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. ~~The Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on Human~~