

~~(H) -- IF -- CONTRACT -- DISPUTE -- SETTLEMENT -- PROCEDURES -- ARE AUTHORIZED -- BY -- A COUNTY GOVERNED BY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IT MAY IN ITS DISCRETION ELECT ONLY THOSE PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN EITHER SUBSECTIONS (F) OR (G).~~

Article 25A - Chartered Counties

1A.

(a) Unless otherwise specifically provided by the laws of Maryland, a chartered county, and every officer, department, agency, board, commission, or other unit of county 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 county, 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 county, 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 governing body of every chartered county shall make available adequate funds for the satisfaction of any final judgment, after the exhaustion of any right of appeal, which has been rendered against the county, or any officer, department, agency, board, commission, or other unit of government in an action in contract as provided in this section.

~~(E) -- A -- FINAL -- ADMINISTRATIVE -- DECISION -- CONCERNING -- ANY CONTROVERSY OVER A CONTRACT ENTERED INTO BY A CHARTERED COUNTY IS SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW DE NOVO. -- A CHARTERED COUNTY MAY NOT, BY CONTRACTUAL PROVISION OR OTHERWISE, ATTEMPT TO DEPRIVE ANY PARTY OF THIS RIGHT OF JUDICIAL REVIEW.~~

(E) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (F) AND (G) OF THIS SECTION, A CHARTERED COUNTY MAY NOT REQUIRE IN A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT, OR OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH REGARD TO A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT, TO WHICH IT IS A PARTY, THAT A DISPUTE BETWEEN THE PARTIES INVOLVING \$10,000 OR MORE REGARDING THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT OR PERFORMANCE UNDER THE CONTRACT, BE SUBJECT TO FINAL BINDING OR CONCLUSIVE DETERMINATION BY AN OFFICER OR OFFICIAL BODY OF A CHARTERED COUNTY.

(F) A CHARTERED COUNTY MAY REQUIRE OR PROVIDE, WITH REGARD TO A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO WHICH IT IS A PARTY, THAT IF THERE IS A DISPUTE REGARDING THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT OR PERFORMANCE UNDER THE CONTRACT, THE QUESTION OR QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN THE DISPUTE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A DETERMINATION WHICH IS FINAL AND CONCLUSIVE ON ALL PARTIES, MADE EITHER BY: