

(1) A NEUTRAL PERSON OR ENTITY SELECTED BY OR IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED BY THE HIGHEST EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY OF A CHARTERED COUNTY, OR

(2) IN THE EVENT THAT THE OTHER PARTY DOES NOT ACCEPT AS NEUTRAL A PERSON OR ENTITY SELECTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, BY AN ARBITRATION PANEL COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING:

(I) ONE MEMBER DESIGNATED BY THE HIGHEST EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY OF A CHARTERED COUNTY;

(II) ONE MEMBER DESIGNATED BY THE OTHER PARTY TO THE DISPUTE; AND

(III) ONE MEMBER TO BE SELECTED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF THE TWO DESIGNATED MEMBERS FROM LISTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE.

(G) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTIONS (E) AND (F) OF THIS SECTION, A CHARTERED COUNTY MAY PROVIDE OR REQUIRE, WITH REGARD TO A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT VALUED AT \$10,000 OR MORE 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 A DETERMINATION OF QUESTIONS OF FACT BY AN OFFICER OR OFFICIAL BODY OF A CHARTERED COUNTY, PROVIDED THAT THE DECISION OF THE OFFICER OR OFFICIAL BODY OF A CHARTERED COUNTY IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW DE-NOVO ON THE RECORD BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION.

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

Article 25B - Home Rule for Code Counties

13A.

(a) Unless otherwise specifically provided by the laws of Maryland, a code 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 the completion of the contract giving rise to the claim, whichever is later.