

Vote **NO** on SB 705 – Just More Lawsuits, Higher Costs

Supporters say SB 705 is just “fee shifting” for lawsuits against the State and local governments...

WRONG!

What does the bill actually do?

Under SB 705, plaintiffs suing the state and locals can get attorneys fees paid... but read the fine print, too:

- This is ON TOP OF liability caps, that were just doubled in 2015
- Nearly impossible for state/locals as defendant to be paid attorney’s fees
- There’s no balancing, like there is in federal law
- Committee added FIFTEEN areas for attorney fees to be paid

What does the Fiscal Note say about the bill?

Significant increase in costs to the state government:

- State agencies get billed for higher liability costs
- AG needs more staff, anticipating wave of new lawsuits

Similar cost increases for all local governments, big or small:

- Self-insured locals will pay larger settlements/judgments
- Insured locals will see big premium increases for same

Governments will be pushed to settle cases, rather than defend:

- “Open season” for nuisance/frivolous lawsuits

SB 705 – NOT BALANCED, NOT BUDGETED, NOT FAIR



For more information on why SB 705 is actually bad for the people of Maryland,
contact the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo): 410.269.0043
or the Maryland Municipal League (MML): 410.268.5514

