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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 558 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY KAUFFMAN, RYAN, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MASSER,  
ZIMMERMAN AND IRVIN, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in limitation of time,  
3 providing for a statute of repose.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 5539. Statute of repose.

9 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection (b), a  
10 civil action or proceeding brought against a person, partnership  
11 or corporation to recover damages for death, injury to persons  
12 or property or economic loss allegedly resulting from a  
13 defective product must be commenced within 15 years of any of  
14 the following:

15 (1) The date of delivery of the product to the first  
16 purchaser or lessee who is not engaged in the business of  
17 selling or leasing the product.

18 (2) The date of completion of the replacement or

1 addition of a new component, system, subassembly or other  
2 part that was added to the product and is alleged to have  
3 caused death, injury to persons or property or economic loss.

4 (b) Exception.--Subsection (a) does not apply to any of the  
5 following:

6 (1) An action brought under a written warranty that  
7 would be enforceable under law but for the operation of this  
8 section.

9 (2) An action against a manufacturer, seller or  
10 distributor of the product or the manufacturer, seller or  
11 distributor of any new component, system, subassembly or  
12 other part of the product alleging a physical illness the  
13 evidence of which did not appear in less than 15 years after  
14 the first exposure to the product.

15 (c) Applicability.--This section shall apply to any claim or  
16 action brought by a plaintiff for harm caused by a product,  
17 irrespective of the theory underlying the claim, other than an  
18 action for harm caused by breach of an express warranty.

19 (d) Limitation.--If an injury or wrongful death shall occur  
20 more than 13 years and within 15 years after delivery of the  
21 product as described in subsection (a)(1), or the date of  
22 completion of the replacement or addition of a new component as  
23 described in subsection (a)(2), a civil action or proceeding  
24 within the scope of subsection (a) may be commenced with the  
25 time otherwise limited by this subchapter, but not later than 17  
26 years after the events described in subsection (a)(1) and (2).

27 Section 2. This act shall apply to all actions filed after  
28 the effective date of this act.

29 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.