

HB 1596 -- PRODUCTS LIABILITY (Trent)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Judiciary

This bill provides that a person who is injured by a defective or unsafe condition of a product due to negligence in the design, manufacture, sale, or distribution of a product has 15 years after the sale or lease of the product to bring a claim for damages. The time limitation shall not apply to actions relating to real property, actions where a person has knowingly concealed any defective or unsafe condition in a product, actions for indemnity or contribution by a defendant, when a product has a warranty that is greater than 15 years, actions regarding negligent service or maintenance of a product, for certain products that cause respiratory or malignant disease, or to any action against a manufacturer where the harm occurred during the useful life of the product. The provisions of this bill apply to all civil actions commenced on or after August 28, 2020, or any new causes of action asserted in civil actions pending on that date. However, any cause of action falling within the provisions of this bill that accrued on or before August 28, 2020, may, in any event, be brought no later than August 28, 2021, unless barred by another provision of law.

This bill is similar to HB 186 (2019).