

The Florida Justice Reform Institute Supports SB 236, Which Would Ensure Parties Timely Pursue Negligence Claims

Under current law, a four-year statute of limitations applies to negligence actions. In other words, a party has to bring "[a]n action founded on negligence" within four years of the time that the cause of action accrues (i.e., when the last element of the cause of action occurs). § 95.11(3)(a), Fla. Stat. Statutes of limitation are designed and intended to encourage diligence in the prosecution of claims, eliminate the potential of abuse from a stale claim, and ultimately foster certainty and finality in liability. See, e.g., Caduceus Props., LLC v. Graney, 137 So. 3d 987, 992 (Fla. 2014) ("Statutes of limitations are designed to protect defendants from unusually long delays in the filing of lawsuits and to prevent prejudice to defendants from the unexpected enforcement of stale claims."); Hawkins v. Barnes, 661 So. 2d 1271, 1272 (Fla. 5th DCA 1995) ("The purpose of setting a fixed time limit on the right to assert a civil claim is to encourage prompt resolution of controversies and to protect against the risk of injustice. . . . As to each civil action, the applicable statute of limitations serves notice of a potential bar and provides a reasonable time within which the plaintiff can initiate a claim.").

Providing a four-year limitations period on negligence claims does not further those goals. A party should know whether they have a claim for negligence within a time period far shorter than four years. Indeed, other claims founded on negligence or similar principles, like professional malpractice claims and wrongful death claims, apply a two-year rather than four-year statute of limitations. § 95.11(4)(b) & (d), Fla. Stat. This would also be consistent with several states, including Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and West Virginia, which impose two-year statutes of limitations on most tort claims.¹

Thus, the Florida Justice Reform Institute supports SB 236, which in Section 2 would make the statute of limitations period applicable to negligence actions two years:

- 95.11 Limitations other than for the recovery of real property.—Actions other than for recovery of real property shall be commenced as follows:
- (3) WITHIN FOUR YEARS.—
- (a) An action founded on negligence.
- (b) An action relating to the determination of paternity, with the time running from the date the child reaches the age of 15 majority.

. . . .

- (4) WITHIN TWO YEARS.—
- (a) An action founded on negligence.

¹ A chart outlining the statute of limitations applicable to claims in all 50 states from September 2014 is attached.



JURISDICTIONS COMPARATIVE CHART:

LIMITATIONS OF TIME AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIONS

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Last Updated: September 2014

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JURISDICTIONS COMPARATIVE CHART:

LIMITATIONS OF TIME AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIONS

ALABAMA		
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal injury, wrongful death: 2 years. Al. Code § 6-2-38 Real or personal property: 2 years. Al. Code § 6-2-38 [Note: All actions claiming liability under respondeat superior must be commenced within 2 years] Actions for trespass to real or personal property: 6 years. Al. Code §6-2-34(2) NOTE: Alabama also has a common law 20 year "rule of repose" that runs from the date that all essential elements of the claim exist. American General Life v. Underwood, 886 So.2d 807 (Ala. 2004)
	Contract	Written and Oral: 6 years. Al. Code § 6-2-34 (9)
	Governmental	 Municipality Torts: 6 months from claim's accrual. Al. Code § 11-47-23 All others (except bonds and interest coupons and claims for damages): 2 years from claim's accrual. Al. Code § 11-47-23
	Product Liability	•
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	13 years after substantial completion for against architects and engineers or builders who have constructed or managed the construction of an improvement based on plans prepared by an architect or engineer. Al. Code §6-5-221
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
ALASKA		
	Torts	Personal Injury/Property Damage: 2 years. A.S. § 09.10.070
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written and Oral: 3 years. A.S. § 09.10.053 U.C.C. Warranty Claims: 4 years from the date product is sold. A.S. § 45.02.725
	Governmental	 Tort (claim against government): 2 years from claim's accrual. Johnson v. City of Fairbanks, 583 P.2d 181 (1978) Contract (claim against government): 6 years from claim's accrual. State Dep't of Natural Resources v. Transamerica Premier Ins. Co., 856 P.2d 766 (Alaska 1993)
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	Within 10 years of substantial completion or last act causing property damage. A.S. § 09.10.055(a)(1)(2). Act does not apply where the injury results from prolonged exposure to hazardous waste, intentional act, gross negligence, fraud or misrepresentation, or breach of express warranty.
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals

ARIZONA		
	Torts	Personal Injury / Property Damage: 2 years. A.R.S. § 12-542
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 6 years. A.R.S. § 12-548 Oral: 3 years. A.R.S. § 12-543
	Governmental	 Notice within 180 days of claim's accrual. A.R.S. § 12-821.01 Suit brought 1 year after cause of action accrues. A.R.S. § 12 -821
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	 Within 2 years of bodily injury, death or property damage, but within 12 years of date of first sale unless the action is based on negligence or breach of expressed warranty of the manufacturer or seller. A.R.S. § 12-551, § 12-542 [Declared unconstitutional in Hazine v. Montgomery Elevator Co., 861 P.2d 625 (1993)]
or Repose	Construction of Real Property	8 years after substantial completion, but within 1 year if claim arose in 8th year. A.R.S. § 12-552
Certificate of Merit Requirement		• For claims against licensed professionals, within 40 days of receiving a responsive pleading, the plaintiff must certify in a written statement whether expert opinion is necessary to prove the licensed professional standard of care. If an expert is required, the plaintiff must provide a preliminary opinion affidavit with the expert's qualifications, the factual basis for the claim, the acts, errors of omissions that the expert considers to be a violation of the standard of care and the manner in which the acts, errors or omissions caused or contributed to the damages. A.R.S. § 12-2602
ARKANSAS		
	Torts	• 3 years. Ark. Code § 16-56-105(3)
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 5 years. Ark. Code § 16-56-111 Oral: 3 years. Ark. Code § 16-56-105(1)
	Governmental	 Actions against sheriffs or coroners acting in their official capacity: 2 years. Ark. Code §16-56-019 For claims against the State or its agencies, plaintiff must submit claim to the Arkansas State Claims Commission with the applicable statute of limitations. Subrogation claims filed by insurance companies are not entertained by the Commission.
Statutes	Product Liability	
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 Real or Personal Property: 5 years after substantial completion. Ark. Code § 16-56-112(a) Personal Injury or Wrongful Death: 4 years after substantial completion. Ark. Code § 16-56-112(b)(1)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals.
CALIFORNIA		
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. Cal. Code Civ. Prac. § 335.1 Property Damage: 3 years. Cal. Code Civ. Prac. § 338 Medical Malpractice: 1 year after discovery of injury but not more than 3 years after injury. CCP §340.5
Statutes	Contract	Written: 4 years. Cal. Code Civ. Prac. § 337 Oral: 2 years. Cal. Code Civ. Prac. § 339
of Limitation	Governmental	 Personal property or personal injury: Administrative claim must be filed with the agency within 6 months after accrual. Gov't Code. § 911.2; Real Property or contract damages: Administrative claim must be filed with the agency within 1 year of the date of the contractual breach or property damage. Gov't Code. § 911.2. If the governmental agency denies claim within 45 days of receiving, plaintiff must file lawsuit within 6 months of governmental agency's denial of the claim. If agency does not respond within 45 days, plaintiff has 2 years from the date of the injury to file suit. Gov't Code. § 945.6(a)(2)
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability Construction of	Patent Defects: 4 years after substantial completion but within 1 year if claim arises in 4th year. Cal. Code Civ. Prac. §337.1
Certificate of Merit Requirement	Real Property	 Latent Defects: 10 years after substantial completion. Cal. Code Civ. Prac.§337.15 Certificate of merit must be filed for claim against architects, engineers and surveyors within 60 days of filling the complaint. Cal. Code Civ. Prac. §411.35.

COLORADO		
Statutes	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. C.R.S. § 13-80-102(1)(a) Property Damage: 2 years. C.R.S. § 13-80-102(1)(a) Products Liability: 2 years. C.R.S. § 13-80-106(1) Injury or Damage Arising Out of Use or Operation of Automobile: 3 years. C.R.S. §13-80-101(1)(n)
of Limitation	Contract	Written, Oral and Contracts for the Sale of Goods: 3 years. C.R.S. § 13-80-101(1)(a)
	Governmental	 Notice within 180 days. C.R.S. § 24-10-109(1) Actions against police and firemen: Suit within 1 year. C.R.S. § 13-80-103(1)(c) Actions against other governmental entities or employees: 2 years. C.R.S. § 13-80-102(1)(f) and (h)
	Product Liability	• Claims relating to new manufacturing equipment: 7 years after first use. C.R.S. § 13-80-107(1)(b) [Applies only to equipment used in factory or manufacturing plant]
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	• 6 years after substantial completion, but within 2 years if claim arises in 5th or 6th year. Claims for contribution must be filed within 90 days after judgment/settlement. C.R.S. § 13-80-104
Certificate of Merit Requirement		For claims against licensed professionals, within 60 days of filings, suit, plaintiff's attorney must file a certificate of review stating that the attorney has consulted a person who has expertise in the area of the negligent conduct and that consulted expert has reviewed the known facts and has concluded that the filing of the claim does not lack substantial justification. C.R.S. § 13-20-602
CONNECTICUT		
Statutes	Torts	 Personal Injury / Real or Personal Property Damage: 2 years from date of loss AND within 3 years from date of wrongful act or omission. <i>Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-584</i> All other actions founded upon a Tort: 3 years from the date of the act or omission complained of. <i>Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-577</i> Product Liability: 3 years from date of loss. <i>Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-577a(a)</i>
of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 6 years. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-576(a) Oral: 3 years. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-581(a)
	Governmental	 State: Claim presented within 1 year of accrual, but within 3 years of act complained of. <i>Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-148(a)</i> Municipalities: Notice within 6 months of claim's accrual; suit within 2 years. <i>Conn. Gen. Stat. § 7-101a(d)</i>
Statutes	Product Liability	 10 years after product left defendant's possession or control. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-577a(a) Limitation will not apply if claimant can prove that the harm occurred during the useful safe life of the product, Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-577a(c)
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	• Actions against architects, professional engineers and land surveyors: 7 years after substantial completion, but within 1 year if injury occurs in 7th year. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-584a(a), § 52-584a(b)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
DELAWARE		
Chabata	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. Del. Code Ann. Tit. 10 § 8119 Personal Property: 2 years. Del. Code Ann. Tit. 10 § 8107 Real Property: 3 years. Del. Code Ann. Tit. 10 § 8106
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written and Oral: 3 years. Del. Code Ann. Tit. 10 § 8106 Contracts for the Sale of Goods: 4 years. Del. Code Ann. Tit. 6 § 2-725(1)
	Governmental	Actions against the City of Wilmington: Notice within 1 year of claim's accrual. Del. Code Ann. Tit. 10 § 8124
Statutes	Product Liability	
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	• 6 years from date of substantial completion. <i>Del. Code Ann. Tit.</i> 10 § 8127
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals

DISTRICT OF C	OLUMBIA	
	Torts	 All Torts not specifically prescribed: 3 years. D.C. Stat. § 12-301(8) Real or Personal Property: 3 years. D.C. Stat. §12-301(3) Wrongful Death: 1 year. D.C. Stat. § 16-2702
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written or Oral: 3 years. D.C. Stat. § 12-301(7) Contracts for the Sale of Goods: 4 years. D.C. Stat. § 28:2-725
	Governmental	Notice within 6 months of injury or damage. D.C. Stat. § 12-309
.	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	10 years from date of substantial completion; unless claim based on a contract or product liability. D.C. Stat. § 12-310
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
FLORIDA		
	Torts	 Negligence and claims arising out of an improvement to real property: 4 years. Fla. Stat. § 95.11(3) Professional Malpractice: 2 years. Fla. Stat. §95.11(4) Wrongful Death: 2 Years. Fla. Stat. §95.11(4)(d)
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 5 years. Fla. Stat. § 95.11(2)(b) Oral: 4 years. Fla. Stat. § 95.11(3)(k) Specific Performance: 1 year. Fla. Stat. § 95.11(5)(a)
	Governmental	 Written notice within 3 years to governmental agency and Dept. of Insurance. Fla. Stat. § 768.28(6)(a) Suit within 4 years. Fla. Stat. § 95.11(3)(d), § 11.065(1)
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	 12 years after delivery of product to first purchaser, unless product is warranted to have expected useful life of more than 10 years, in which case suit must be filed within product's expected life or 12 years, whichever is greater. Fla. Stat. § 95.031(2)(b) All products presumed to have useful life of 10 years or less except for aircraft, railroad equipment, elevators, escalators, large vessels, which are subject to special rules. Fla. Stat. § 95.031(2)(b) Repose period does not apply if claimant was exposed during repose period but injury does not manifest itself until after repose period. Fla. Stat. §95.031(2)(c)
	Construction of Real Property	• 10 years after date of owner's actual possession or substantial completion, whichever is later. Fla. Stat.§ 95.11(3)(c)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is a certificate of merit for medical malpractice actions but not for claims against other professionals. See Fla. Stat. §§766.201 – 766.206; 766.104
GEORGIA		
	Torts	 Property Damage: 4 years. O.C.G.A. § 9-3-30, § 9-3-31 Personal Injury: 2 years. O.C.G.A. § 9-3-33
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 6 years. O.C.G.A.§ 9-3-24 Sale of Goods: 4 years. O.C.G.A. §11-2-725(1) Oral: 4 years. O.C.G.A.§ 9-3-25
	Governmental	 Notice of claim against the State: 12 months. O.C.G.A. § 50-21-26(a)(1) Presentment of claim against a County: 12 months. O.C.G.A. § 36-11-1 Notice of claim against a municipality: 6 months. O.C.G.A. § 36-33-5
Statutes of Repose:	Product Liability	10 years from date of first sale to user. O.C.G.A. § 51-1-11(b)(2)
	Construction of Real Property	8 years after substantial completion, but within 2 years if claim arises in the 7th or 8th year. O.C.G.A. § 9-3-51 Note, however, 4 year real property statute of limitations begins to run at time of substantial completion. See Colormatch Exteriors v. Hickey, 275 Ga. 249, 569 S.E.2d 495 (2002)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		 For all claims alleging professional malpractice against a professional licensed by the State of Georgia, a plaintiff must file an affidavit from an expert competent to testify setting forth a negligent act or omission along with the complaint. This requirement applies to claims against architects, land surveyors, professional engineers and numerous other professionals listed in the statue. O.C.G.A.§ 9-11-9.1

HAWAII		
	Torts	Personal Injury / Property Damage: 2 years. H.R.S. § 657-7
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written or Oral: 6 years. H.R.S. § 657-1 Sale of Goods: 4 years after tender of delivery. H.R.S. § 490:2-725(1) For property damages arising out of contract, the 2 year property damage statue may apply
	Governmental	 State Agencies: 2 years. H.R.S. § 662-4 Counties: Notice within 2 years after injury occurs. H.R.S. § 46-72
Statutes	Product Liability	
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	10 years after date of completion of the improvement to real property. H.R.S.§ 657-8
Certificate of Merit Requirement		Must submit claim to Design Claim Reconciliation Panel before filing suit. Statute is tolled for year after submitted. Certificate of Consultation with expert required. H.R.S.§ 672B & 462B
IDAHO		
	Torts	 Personal Injury / Professional Malpractice: 2 years. I.C. §5-219 Property Damage: 3 years. I.C. § 5-218
Statutes	Contract	 Written: 5 years. I.C. § 5-216 Oral: 4 years. I.C. § 5-217 Sale of Goods: 4 years. I.C. § 28-2-725
of Limitation	Governmental	 County: 6 months after rejection of board of commissioners. <i>I.C. § 5-221</i> State: Notice to Secretary of State within 180 days from date claim arose or reasonably should have been discovered. <i>I.C. § 6-905</i> Political Subdivision: Notice to Clerk or Secretary within 180 days from date claim arose or reasonably should have been discovered. <i>I.C. § 6-906</i> Suit within 2 years of claim accrual. <i>I.C. § 6-911</i>
Statutes	Product Liability	 Presumed useful life of product is 10 years. I.C. §6-1403(2) Claim must be brought within 2 years from time cause of action accrued. I.C. §6-1403(3)
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 Tort: 6 years after final completion. <i>I.C. § 5-241(a)</i> Contract: Statute begins to run at time of final completion, subject to statute of limitations for written contract of 5 years. <i>I.C. § 5-241(b)</i>
Certificate of Merit Requirement		•
ILLINOIS		
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. 735 ILCS § 5/13-202 Property Damage: 5 years. 735 ILCS § 5/13-205
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 10 years. 735 ILCS § 5/13-206 Oral: 5 years. 735 ILCS § 5/13-205 Sale of Goods: 4 years. 810 ILCS § 5/2-725
	Governmental	• Contract / Tort: 1 year. 745 ILCS § 10/8-101
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	• 12 years from date of sale to retailer or 10 years from date of sale to consumer, whichever is earlier. 735 ILCS § 5/13-213(b)
	Construction of Real Property	 10 years from substantial completion but within 4 years if claim arises in 7th, 8th. 9th, or 10th year. 735 ILCS § 5/13-214(b) Action must be brought within 4 years of date of knowledge of act or omission giving rise to the claim. 735 ILCS § 5/13-214(a)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		No requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit against a construction or design professional

INDIANA		
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. Ind. Code § 34-11-2-4(1) Personal Property: 2 years. Ind. Code § 34-11-2-4(2) Real Property: 6 years. Ind. Code § 34-11-2-7
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 10 years. Ind. Code§ 34-11-2-11 Oral: 6 years. Ind. Code§ 34-11-2-7(1) Sale of Goods: 4 years. Ind. Code §26-1-2-725(1)
	Governmental	 Political Subdivisions: Notice within 180 days after the loss occurs. Ind. Code § 34-13-3-8 State: Notice within 270 days after the loss occurs. Ind. Code § 34-13-3-6
	Product Liability	• 10 years after initial delivery, but within 2 years if claim arises in 9th or10th year. Ind. Code § 34-20-3-1
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	10 years after substantial completion or 12 years after completed plans delivered to owner if action for defective design, but within 2 years if claim is for personal injury which arose in 9th or 10th year. Ind. Code§ 32-30-1-5, § 32-30-1-6
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
IOWA		
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. <i>Iowa Code Ann. § 614.1(2)</i> Property Damage: 5 years. <i>Iowa Code Ann. § 614.1(4)</i>
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 10 years. Iowa Code Ann. § 614.1(5) Oral: 5 years. Iowa Code Ann. § 614.1(4)
	Governmental	• 6 months after claim's accrual or, if notice is given within 60 days, suit within 2 years. <i>Iowa Code Ann. § 670.5</i>
Statutes	Product Liability	• 15 years after first purchased or installed for use for cause of action based on strict liability in tort, negligence or breach of an implied warranty. <i>Iowa Code Ann. § 614.1(2A)(a)</i> . Specific exceptions listed in the statute.
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	15 years after date of act or omission which caused the injury. <i>Iowa Code Ann. § 614.1(11)</i> . This includes products incorporated into real property]
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
KANSAS		
Statutos	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. K.S.A. § 60-513 Property Damage: 2 years. K.S.A. § 60-513 Intentional Torts: 1 year. K.S.A. § 60-514
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 5 years. K.S.A. § 60-511 Oral: 3 years. K.S.A. § 60-512
	Governmental	
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	Rebuttable presumption that product is not defective 10 years after delivery of product. K.S.A. § 60-3303
	Construction of Real Property	10 years from the time the act giving rise to the cause of action occurs. K.S.A. § 60-513
Certificate of Merit Requirement		No requirement that a certificate of merit be field prior to or contemporaneous with a professional malpractice action. However, Kansas does have a procedure for convening a screening panel for professional malpractice cases after they are filed. K.S.A. § 60-3502

KENTUCKY		
Statutes	Torts	 Personal Injury: 1 year. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 413.140 (but see §304.39-230 extending limitation period for tort liability not abolished by auton-fault statute) Personal Property: 2 years. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 413.125 Real Property: 5 years. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 413.120(4) Professional Malpractice: 1 year. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 413.245
of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 5 years. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 413.090(2) Oral: 5 years. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 413.120(1)
	Governmental	 Action against county on bonded obligation: 3 years. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §413.110(1) Action on state warrant: 2 years. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §413.110(2)
Statutes	Product Liability	Presumption of non-defectiveness if loss occurs 5 years after sale to consumer or 8 years after first manufactured. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 411.310
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 7 years from substantial completion, or within 1 year if injury occurs during 7th year. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 413.135; but see Perkins v. Northeastern Log Homes, 808 S.W.2d 809 (Ky. 1991)(holding virtually identical predecessor statute unconstitutional because it violated Kentucky Constitution)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
LOUISIANA		
	Torts	1 year. La. Civ. Code art. 3492
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	• 10 years. <i>La. Civ. Code art.</i> 3499
oi Liiiitatioii	Governmental	Claim presented to commissioner of administration within 2 years after accrual. La. Rev. Stat. §39:339
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 Action can be brought within 5 yrs. after owner's acceptance of work is registered in mortgage office or 5 yrs. from occupation or possession, if acceptance isn't recorded w/in 6 months of occupation or possession. However, if injury occurs during 5th year after above event (i.e., registry of acceptance; ownership or possession), action may be brought w/in 1 yr. after injury, but in no event more than 6 yrs. after event. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9:2772.
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
MAINE	<u>'</u>	
	Torts	 Torts: 6 years. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 14 § 752 Intentional Torts: 2 years. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 14 § 753
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Oral and Written: 6 years. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann.14 § 752 Contracts for the Sale of Goods: 4 years. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 11 § 2-725
	Governmental	 Notice within 180 days of claim's accrual. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 14 § 8107(1) Suit filed within 2 years. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 14 § 8110
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 Architects and engineers: 4 years after discovery, in no event more than 10 years after substantial completion. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 14 § 752-A Land surveyors: 4 years after discovery, in no event more than 20 years after completion of the plan. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 14 § 752-D
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals

MARYLAND		
	Torts	3 years. Md. Code Ann. Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 5-101
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	3 years. Md. Code Ann. Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 5-101
	Governmental	 Notice within 1 year of injury Action filed within 3 years of accrual. Md. Code Ann. Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 12-106
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability Construction of Real Property	 No claim for damages, contribution, or indemnity accrues if it occurs more than 20 years after improvement is first available for use. <i>Md. Code Ann. Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 5-108(a)</i> No action against architect or contractor accrues if it occurs more than 10 years after improvement is first available. <i>Md. Code Ann. Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 5-108(b)</i> An action must be filed within 3 years of the accrual of the cause of action. <i>Md. Code Ann. Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 5-108(c)</i>
Certificate of Merit Requirement		 For malpractice claims against licensed professionals including architects, designers, landscape architects, professional engineers and professional land surveyors, within 90 days of filing suit plaintiff must file a certificate from a qualified expert containing a statement that the licensed professional failed to meet an applicable standard of professional care. Md. Code Ann. Cts. & Jud. Proc. §3-2-C-02
MASSACHUSE	TTS	
	Torts	3 years. Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 260 § 2A
Statutes	Contract	Written / Oral: 6 years. Mass. Gen. Laws ch 260 § 2
of Limitation	Governmental	 All public entities: Written notice required within 2 years after the claim accrues. Mass. Gen. Laws ch 258 § 4 County / Municipality: 3 years after the claim accrues. Mass. Gen. Laws ch 260 § 4 Commonwealth: 3 years after the claim accrues. Mass. Gen. Laws ch 260 § 3A
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	3 years from the date the claim accrues, however no more than 6 years after the earlier of the date of the opening of the improvement to use or substantial completion of the improvement. Mass. Gen. Laws ch 260 § 2B
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
MICHIGAN		
	Torts	 Personal Injury / Property Damage: 3 years. Mich. Comp. L. Ann. § 600.5805(10) Professional Malpractice: 2 years, Mich. Comp. L. Ann. §600.5805(6), or 6 months after discovery of claim Mich. Comp. L. Ann. §600.5838(2), whichever is later. Action for Property Damage Caused By Automobile: 1 year. Mich. Comp. L. Ann. §500.3145(2)
Chabataa	Contract	• 6 years. Mich. Comp. L. Ann. § 600.5807(8)
Statutes of Limitation	Governmental	 For claims against the state or state agencies, claims must be brought in the Court of Claims. Mich. Comp. L. Ann. 600.6419. For property damage or personal injury, Notice of Claim must be filed in Court of Claims within 6 months after event giving rise to cause of action § Mich. Comp. L. Ann. § 600.6431(3). For all other claims, Notice of Claim must be filed within 1 year of accrual. Mich. Comp. L. Ann. § 600.6431(1). The Government Liability for Negligence Act provides specific notice requirements for different types of claims against government entities, which could be as short as 45 days. See Mich. Comp. L. Ann. §691.1401 §691.1419
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	Claim must be brought within 3 years from date of injury; in the case of a product that has been in use for more than 10 years, the plaintiff will not have the benefit of any presumption in proving a prima facie case. Mich. Comp. L. Ann. § 600.5805(13)
	Construction of Real Property	6 years after occupancy or acceptance, or 1 year after the defect is discovered if the claim based on gross negligence but in no event more than 10 years after occupancy or acceptance of the improvement. Mich. Comp. L. Ann. § 600.5839. See also Beauregard-Bezou v. Pierce, 487 N.W.2d 792 (Mich App. 1992)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals.

MINNESOTA		
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 541.07 Property Damage: 6 years. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 541.05 Product Liability: 4 years. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 541.05
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 6 years. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 541.05(1) Notice of breach of statutory builders warranties must be given within 6 months after vendee or owner discovers or should have discovered loss or damage. Minn. Stat. Ann.§327A.03
	Governmental	 State: Notice within 180 days of claim's accrual. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 3.736(5) Municipality: Notice within 180 days of claim's accrual unless wrongful death claim, then notice within 1 year. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 466.05
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 Cause of action must arise within 10 years after substantial completion; claim must be brought within 2 years after cause of action arises; in no event may a claim be brought more than 12 years after substantial completion. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 541.051 Note: Notice of breach of statutory builders warranties must be given within 6 months after vendee or owner discovers or should have discovered loss or damage. Minn. Stat. Ann. §327A.03
Certificate of Merit Requirement		• For actions against licensed attorney, licensed architect, certified public accountant, engineer, land surveyor or licensed landscape architect, within 60 days of commencing the action, plaintiff must serve an affidavit stating that the facts have been reviewed with an expert whose qualifications provide a reasonable expectation that the expert's opinions will be admissible at trial, and that in the opinion of the expert, the defendant deviated from the standard of care. Minn. Stat. Ann. §544.42(6). The parties may agree to waive the affidavit. Minn. Stat. Ann. §544.42(3)(c)
MISSISSIPPI		
	Torts	 Property Damage/Personal Injury: 3 years. Miss. Code. Ann. § 15-1-49 Intentional Torts: 1 year. Miss. Code. Ann. § 15-1-35 Medical Malpractice: 2 years but not more than 7 years after negligent act. Miss. Code. Ann. §15-1-36
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 3 years. Miss. Code. Ann. §15-1-49 Oral: 3 years. Miss. Code. Ann. §15-1-29 Unwritten employment contract: 1 year. Miss. Code. Ann. §15-1-29 Sale of Goods: 6 years. Miss. Code. Ann. §75-2-725
	Governmental	Notice of claim 90 days prior to filing suit; Suit commenced 1 year after the date of the actionable conduct. Miss. Code. Ann. §11-46-11
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	6 years after written acceptance or occupancy. Miss. Code. Ann. § 15-1-41
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals.
MISSOURI		
	Torts	 Personal Injury / Property Damage: 5 years. Mo. Ann. Stat. § 516.120 Medical Malpractice: 2 years but not more than 10 years after negligent act. Mo. Ann. Stat. §516.105
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 10 years. Mo. Ann. Stat. § 516.110(1) Oral: 5 years. Mo. Ann. Stat. § 516.120(1)
	Governmental	
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	
	Construction of Real Property	10 years after completion. Mo. Ann. Stat. § 516.097
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for actions against construction or design professionals

MONTANA		
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 3 years. M.C.A. § 27-2-204 Property Damage: 2 years. M.C.A. § 27-2-207
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 8 years. M.C.A. § 27-2-202(1) Oral: 5 years. M.C.A. § 27-2-202(2)
	Governmental	• Notice required within applicable statutory period; filing of notice tolls statute for 120 days; agency must accept or reject claim within 120 days; suit must be filed within 6 months following rejection. <i>M.C.A. § 2-9-301, 302; § 27-2-209</i>
Statutes	Product Liability	
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	• 10 years after completion, but within 1 year if the claim arises in 10th year. M.C.A. § 27-2-208
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
NEBRASKA		
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 4 years. § 25-207 Property Damage: 4 years. § 25-207 Professional Malpractice: 2 years after act or 1 year after discovery of claim, but in no event more than 10 years after act. §25-222 Wrongful Death: 2 years. §30-810 Products Liability: 4 years from date of injury. §25-224(1)
or Emiliation	Contract	 Written: 5 years. § 25-205 Oral: 4 years. § 25-206
	Governmental	 Notice within 2 years. § 81-8,227 Suit must be filed within 2 years. §25-218
Statutes	Product Liability	• For products manufactured in Nebraska, 10 years after product was first sold or leased for use or consumption. For products manufactured outside of Nebraska, within the statute of repose for the state or country of manufacture but in no event less than ten years. § 25-224(2)(a).
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	Within 4 years of act giving rise to claim, or if cause of action not reasonably discoverable within 4 years, then within 2 years after the act or deficiency reasonably should have been discovered but in no event more than 10 years after the act giving rise to the claim. § 25-223
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
NEVADA		
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. N.R.S. § 11.190(4)(e) Property Damage: 3 years. N.R.S. § 11.190(3)
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 6 years. N.R.S. §11.190(1)(b) Oral: 4 years. N.R.S. § 11.190(2)(c)
	Governmental	State Agencies: Written notice within 2 years. N.R.S. § 41.036
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 Patent Defects: 6 years after substantial completion, but within 8 years if claim arises in 6th year. <i>N.R.S. §</i> 11.205 Latent Defects: 8 years after substantial completion, but within 10 years if claim arises in 8th year. <i>N.R.S. §</i> 11.204 Known deficiencies: 10 years after substantial completion, but within 12 years if claim arises in 10th year. <i>N.R.S.</i> §11.203
Certificate of Merit Requirement		• For claims against design professionals or person primarily engaged in the practice of professional engineering, land surveying, architecture or landscape architecture, at the time of the filing the complaint, the attorney must also file an affidavit stating that he has reviewed the facts of the case, consulted with an expert, reasonably believes the expert who was consulted is knowledgeable in the relevant discipline and has concluded based on consultation with the expert that the action has a reasonable basis in law and fact. N.R.S. §40.6884

NEW HAMPSH	IIRE	
	Torts	• 3 years, § 508:4
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	• 3 years, § 508:4
	Governmental	Notice within 180 days; Suit within 3 years, § 541-B:14(IV)
Statutes	Product Liability	Within 3 years of discovery of the injury, or 12 years after the manufacturer parted with possession or sold the product, whichever occurred last, § 507-D:2 [Held unconstitutional in <i>Heath v. Sears, Roebuck, 464 A.2d 288 (N.H. 1983)</i>]
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 8 years from date of substantial completion, § 508:4-b Note: Predecessor statute declared unconstitutional in <i>Antoniou v. Kenick</i>, 474 A.2d 566 (N.H. 1984)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
NEW JERSEY		
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2A:14-2 Property Damage: 6 years. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2A:14-1
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	G years. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2A:14-1 Contracts for the Sale of Goods: 4 years. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 12A:2-725
	Governmental	Torts / Contracts: Notice of claim within 90 days of accrual; Suit within 2 years. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 59:13-5, § 59:8-8
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	• 10 years after the performance of furnishing of services. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2A:14-1.1
Certificate of Merit Requirement		For claims against licensed professionals, within 60 days of defendant filing an answer, plaintiff must provide nan affidavit of an appropriate licensed person that there exists a reasonable probability that the care, skill or knowledge exercised or exhibited fell outside the acceptable professional or occupational standards or treatment practices. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2A:53A-27
NEW MEXICO		-
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 3 years. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 37-1-8 Property Damage: 4 years. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 37-1-4
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 6 years. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 37-1-3(a) Oral: 4 years. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 37-1-4
	Governmental	 State or County: Torts - 2 years §41-4-15; Contract - 2 years. N.M. Stat. Ann. §37-1-23 Municipalities: Personal Injury - 1 year §37-1-24; Contract - 3 years §37-1-24; Other Torts - 2 years. N.M. Stat. Ann. §41-4-15
Statutes	Product Liability	
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	• 10 years after substantial completion. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 37-1-27
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals

NEW YORK		
Statutes	Torts	 Personal Injury: 3 years. CPLR § 214(5) Property Damage: 3 years. CPLR § 214(4) Medical Malpractice: 2 ½ years. CPLR § 214-a Non medical malpractice: 3 years. CPLR § 214(6) Wrongful Death: 2 years (but 2 years and 6 months for 9/11 victims), EPTL § 5-4.1 Products Liability: 3 years from date of injury, Heller v. Suzuki Motor Corp., 64 N.Y.2d 407 (1985)
of Limitation	Contract	6 years. CPLR § 213 Contracts for the Sale of Goods: 4 years. UCC § 2-725
	Governmental	 County: Notice within 90 days (Gen M. § 50-e), Suit within 1 year and 90 days or 2 years for wrongful death, (Gen M. § 50-i) City of New York: Notice within 90 days, Suit within 1 year and 90 days, (Gen M. § 50-k) Can file online through comptrollers office at www.comptroller.nyc.gov/bureaus/bla/e-filingclaim.shtm
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 For claims against architects and engineers. No statutory repose period. However, under the case law, if the claimant is in contractual privity, the cause of action accrues when the services are completed and must be commenced within 3 years of the completion of the services. CPLR §214(4); Frank v. Mazs Group, 815 N.Y.S.2d 738 (2006). If not in privity, the action must be filed within 3 years of the date of loss; however, if the work occurred more than 10 years ago, the plaintiff must provide notice to the defendant in accordance with CPLR §214-d. For claims against contractors for defective construction, where there is privity of contract, the claim accrues at the time of the completion of the construction and must be brought within 6 years of the completion. CPLR § 213; Cabrini Medical Center v. Desina, 64 N.Y.2d 1059 (1985). If the claimant is not in contractual privity, the claim must be brought within 3 years of the injury. CPLR § 214(4)(5).
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
NORTH CAROL	INA	
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 3 years. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1-52(16) Property Damage: 3 years. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1-52(16) Wrongful Death: 2 years. N.C. Gen. Stat. §1-53(4). Provided that no tort action shall accrue more than 10 years from last act of defendant giving rise to cause of action. N.C. Gen. Stat. §1-52 (16)
	Contract	Written / Oral: 3 years. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1-52(1)
	Governmental	Contract: 2 years. N.C. Gen. Stat. §1-53(1)
Statutes	Product Liability	• 12 years after date of initial purchase. <i>N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1-46.1</i> (effective 10/1/09 for causes of action accruing on or after that date. Prior limitation was 6 years)
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	6 years after act giving rise to the claim or substantial completion, § 1-50(5)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is presently no certificate of merit required for claims against design professionals or contractors but there is legislation pending that would require a certificate of merit for claims against design professionals.

NORTH DAKO	TA	
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 6 years. N.D. Code § 28-01-16(5) Property Damage: 6 years. N.D. Code §28-01-16(4) Wrongful Death: 2 years. N.D. Code §28-01-18(4) Medical Malpractice: 2 years but not more than 6 years after negligent act. N.D. Code §28-01-18(3)
	Contract	• 6 years. N.D. Code § 28-01-16(1)
	Governmental	• State Agencies: 3 years, § 28-01-22.1
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	10 years from date of purchase or 11 years from date of manufacture. N.D. Code§ 28-01.3-08(1) [Declared unconstitutional by North Dakota Supreme Court in Dickie v. Farmers Union Oil Company of LaMoure, 2000 ND 111, 611 N.W.2d 168 (2000) (Personal Injury Action)]
·	Construction of Real Property	• 10 years after substantial completion, but within 12 years if claim arises within 10th year. N.D. Code § 28-01-44
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
OHIO		
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2305.10 Personal Property Damage: 2 years. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2305.10 Real Property Damage: 4 years. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2305.09 All Causes of Action Arising from Product Liability: 2 years. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §2305.10
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 15 years. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2305.06 Oral: 6 years. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2305.07 Sale of goods: 4 years. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §1302.98
	Governmental	Political Subdivision: 2 years from claim's accrual or within any applicable shorter period of time for bringing the action provided by the Revised Code. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2744.04(A)
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	• 10 years from date of delivery to first purchaser, or within 2 years if the cause of action accrues in the 8 th or 9 th year. <i>Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §2305.10</i>
	Construction of Real Property	• 10 years after substantial completion, or within 2 years if the cause of action accrues in the 8 th or 9 th year. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §2305.131
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
OKLAHOMA		
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. Okla. Stat. Tit. 12 § 95(3) Property Damage: 2 years. Okla. Stat. Tit. 12 § 95(3)
	Contract	 Written: 5 years. Okla. Stat. Tit. 12 § 95(A)(2) Oral: 3 years. Okla. Stat. Tit. 12 § 95(A)(1)
	Governmental	Notice within 1 year from date or loss or injury. Okla. Stat. Tit. 51 § 156 (B). Action must be commenced within 180 days after denial of claim. Okla. Stat. Tit. 51 § 156 (E).
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	
	Construction of Real Property	 10 years after substantial completion. Okla. Stat. Tit. 12 § 109 Statute of repose also protects manufacturers to the extent that they engage in activities enumerated in §109. Ball v. Harnischfeger, 877 P.2d 45 (1994)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals

OREGON		
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. O.R.S. § 12.110(1) Wrongful Death: 3 years. O.R.S §30.020 Professional Malpractice: 2 years from discovery or when should have been discovered and in no event later than 5 years from date of wrongful act. O.R.S § 12.110(4) Property Damage: 6 years. O.R.S § 12.080(3) Negligence action must be commenced within 10 years after negligent act. O.R.S §12.115
	Contract	 6 years. O.R.S § 12.080(1) Contracts for the Sale of Goods: 4 years. O.R.S § 72.7250
	Governmental	Notice within 180 days of injury or 1 year for wrongful death; suit within 2 years. O.R.S § 30.275
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	10 years after date of first purchase or before the date of the expiration of the statute of repose for the state/country where the product was manufactured but claim must be brought within 2 years of date of accrual. O.R.S § 30.905(1), (2)
	Construction of Real Property	 For structures owned or maintained by homeowners or homeowners association, 10 years after substantial completion and within 2 years of date of injury. O.R.S. § 12.135(1)(b) For large commercial structures not maintained by homeowners association, 6 years after substantial completion and within 2 years of the date of injury. O.R.S. § 12.135(1)(c) For design professionals, within 10 years of substantial completion and within 2 years of the date of injury. O.R.S. § 12.135(3)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		Complaints against design professionals must contain a certification/affidavit. O.R.S. § 31.300
PENNSYLVANI	Α	
	Torts	Personal Injury / Property Damage: 2 years. 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 5524
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 4 years. 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 5525(8) Oral: 4 years. 42Pa. Cons. Stat. § 5525(3)
	Governmental	Notice within 6 months of claim's accrual. 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 5522
Statutes	Product Liability	
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	• 12 years, but if claim arises between 10 and 12 years after substantial completion, then suit must be brought within 14 years. 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 5536
Certificate of Merit Requirement		• In any action against a licensed professional, within 60 days of filing the complaint, the attorney must file a certificate of merit signed by the attorney that either (1) an appropriate licensed professional has supplied a written statement that there exists a reasonable probability that the care, skill and knowledge exercised or exhibited fell outside acceptable professional standards, or (2) the claims against defendant are based solely on allegation that other licensed professionals for whom defendant is responsible deviated from the standard of care, or (3) expert testimony of an appropriate licensed professional is unnecessary for the prosecution of the claim. 231 Pa. Cons. Stat. §1042.1
PUERTO RICO		
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	Personal Injury / Property Damage: 1 year, § 31-5141 and § 31-5298
	Contract	• 15 years, § 31-3018 and § 31-5294
	Governmental	
Statutes of Repose:	Product Liability	
	Construction of Real Property	10 years after completion of construction, § 31-4124

RHODE ISLANI)	
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 3 years. R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-14 Property Damage: 10 years. R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-13 Professional Malpractice: 3 years. R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-14.1
	Contract	 Written and Oral: 10 years. R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-13 Contracts under seal: 20 years. R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-17
	Governmental	3 years from claim's accrual. R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-25
Statutes	Product Liability	• 10 years after date product first purchased. R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-13 [Declared unconstitutional in Kennedy v. Cumberland Engineering, 471 A.2d 195 (R.I. 1984)]
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	• 10 years after substantial completion. R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-29
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
SOUTH CAROL	INA	
	Torts	 All torts except libel, slander, assault, battery and certain medical negligence actions: 3 years. S.C. Code § 15-3-530
Statutes of Limitation	C- mtmt	Property Damage: 3 years. S.C. Code § 15-3-530
Of Littletion	Contract	• 3 years. S.C. Code § 15-3-530(1)
	Governmental	2 years after loss unless claim filed, then 3 years. S.C. Code § 15-78-110
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 8 years after substantial completion (13 years where substantial completion occurred before July 1, 2005), § 15-3-640 Note: Predecessor statute held unconstitutional in <i>Broome v. Truluck</i>, 241 S.E.2d 739 (S.C. 1978)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		For claims for professional negligence against licensed professionals, the plaintiff must file an affidavit from a expert competent to testify setting forth at least one specific negligent act or omission and the factual basis for the claim along with the complaint. This requirement applies to claims against architects, land surveyors, professional engineers, medical professionals and various other professionals. S.C. Code § 15-36-100
SOUTH DAKO	ΓΑ	
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 3 years. S.D. Codified Laws § 15-2-14 Property Damage: 6 years. S.D. Codified Laws § 15-2-13 Product Liability: 3 years. S.D. Codified Laws §15-2-12.2 Medical Malpractice: 2 years. S.D. Codified Laws §15-2-14.1
	Contract	6 years. S.D. Codified Laws § 15-2-13
	Governmental	Notice within 180 days of injury. S.D. Codified Laws § 3-21-2
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	
	Construction of Real Property	10 years after substantial completion, but within 1 year if claim arises in 10th year. S.D. Codified Laws §15-2A-1 and 5
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals

TENNESSEE		
TENNICOSEE		Personal Injury: 1 year. Tenn. Code Ann. § 28-3-104
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 1 year. Tenn. Code Ann. § 28-3-104 Property Damage: 3 years. Tenn. Code Ann. § 28-3-105
	Contract	• 6 years. Tenn. Code Ann. § 28-3-109
	Governmental	Action must be brought within 12 months of when the cause of action arose. Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-20-305
Statutes	Product Liability	6 years from date of injury, but in no event longer than 10 years from date of purchase, or within one year after the expiration of the anticipated life, whichever is shorter. Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-28-103
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	4 years after substantial completion. Tenn. Code Ann. § 28-3-202
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
TEXAS		
	Torts	Personal Injury / Property Damage: 2 years. Tex. Civ. Prac. Rem Code § 16.003
Statutes	Contract	4 years. Tex. Civ. Prac. Rem Code§ 16.051
of Limitation	Governmental	Notice to governmental unit required within 6 months (subject to actions against municipalities having a shorter notice period pursuant to city charter or ordinance). Tex. Civ. Prac. Rem Code§ 101.101
	Product Liability	15 years after the date of sale. Tex. Civ. Prac. Rem Code § 16.012
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 Architects, engineers, and interior designers: 10 years after substantial completion, or, if written claim presented within 10 years, within 2 years from the day claim presented. Tex. Civ. Prac. Rem Code§ 16.008 Person who constructs or repairs: 10 years after substantial completion, 2 additional years if written claim presented or if loss occurs during 10th year. Tex. Civ. Prac. Rem Code § 16.009
Certificate of Merit Requirement		• For claims against any licensed professional engineer, landscape architect or landscape surveyor, plaintiff must file with the complaint, an affidavit of a third party Texas licensed professional who is competent to testify, hold the same professional license or designation as the defendant, and is knowledgeable in the area of practice of the defendant. The affidavit must set forth the specific theory of recovery, the negligence or other action, error or omission. Tex. Civ. Prac. Rem Code § 150.002(b)
UTAH		
	Torts	 Personal Property Damage: 3 years. Utah Code Ann. § 78B-2-305 Real Property Damage: 2 years. Utah Code Ann. § 78B-2-225 Wrongful Death: 2 years. Utah Code Ann. § 78B-2-304
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 6 years. Utah Code Ann. § 78B-2-309 Oral: 4 years. Utah Code Ann. § 7B8-2-307
	Governmental	 Government Agencies: Written notice within 1 year. Utah Code Ann. § 63-30d-402 Suit must be brought within 1 year after denial of claim. Utah Code Ann. § 63-30d-403 County and City Agencies: 1 year after rejection of claim. Utah Code Ann. § 78B-2-303
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	
	Construction of Real Property	• 6 years from the date of completion if based upon contract or warranty claim, unless contract provides different period. <i>Utah Code Ann</i> . § 78B-2-225(2)(e)(3). Otherwise, 9 years after completion. <i>Utah Code Ann</i> . § 78B-2-225(2)(e)(4)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals

VERMONT		
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 3 years. Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 12 § 512(4) Medical Malpractice: 3 years from date of incident or 2 years from discovery of claim, but in no event later than 7 years from date of incident. Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 12 § 521 Personal Property Damage: 3 years. Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 12 § 512(5) Real Property Damage: 6 years. Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 12 § 511
	Contract	6 years. Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit 12 § 511
	Governmental	Small claims actions against the State must be filed within 18 months. Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit § 32-932
	Product Liability	
Statutes of Repose	Construction of Real Property	
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
VIRGIN ISLANI	os	
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years, 5 § 31(5)(A) Personal Property Damage: 6 years, 5 § 31(3)(D) Real Property Damage: 6 years for action for waste or trespass upon real property, 5 § 31(3)(C) Product Liability: 2 years, 5 § 31(5)(A)
Or Elimitation	Contract	• 6 years, 5 § 31(3)(A)
	Governmental	
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	
Damage Based Upon:	Construction of Real Property	
Certificate of Merit Requirement		
VIRGINIA		
Statutes of Limitation Statutes of Repose	Torts	 Personal Injury: 2 years. Va. Code Ann. § 8.01-243(A) Property Damage: 5 years. Va. Code Ann. § 8.01-243(B)
	Contract	 Written: 5 years. Va. Code Ann. § 8.01-246 Oral: 3 years. Va. Code Ann. § 8.01-246 Sale of Goods: 4 years. Va. Code Ann. § 8.2-725(1)
	Governmental	 For claims against State entities, notice within 1 year of claim's accrual, Suit within 18 months of notice. Va. Code Ann. § 8.01-195.7 For claims against counties, cities or towns, notice within 6 months of accrual. Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-209
	Product Liability	
	Construction of Real Property	• 5 years after performance of services. Va. Code Ann. § 8.01-250
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals

WASHINGTON	ı	
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 3 years. R.C.W. § 4.16.080(2) Personal Property Damage: 3 years. R.C.W. § 4.16.080(1)(2) Real Property Damage: 2 years. R.C.W. § 4.16.130; Will v. Frontier Contractors, 121 Wash.App. 119, 89 P.3d 242 (2004)
	Contract	 Written: 6 years. R.C.W. § 4.16.040(1) Oral: 3 years. R.C.W. § 4.16.080(3)
	Governmental	Written notice within applicable limitations period plus 60 day waiting period prior to filing suit. R.C.W. § 4.96.020(4)
Statutes	Product Liability	 12 year presumption of "useful safe life". R.C.W. § 7.72.060(2) No claim may be brought more than 3 years from time harm and its cause discovered. R.C.W. §7.72.060(3)
of Repose	Construction of Real Property	 Claim must accrue within 6 years of substantial completion or within 6 years of termination of services, whichever is later. and must be brought within applicable statute of limitations. R.C.W. § 4.16.310
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
WEST VIRGINI	A	
	Torts	Personal Injury / Property Damage: 2 years. W. Va. Code § 55-2-12
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	 Written: 10 years. W. Va. Code § 55-2-6 Oral: 5 years. W. Va. Code § 55-2-6
	Governmental	• 2 years after cause of action accrues. W. Va. Code § 29-12A-6(a)
Statutes of Repose	Product Liability	
Damage Based Upon:	Construction of Real Property	• 10 years after occupancy or acceptance by owner. W. Va. Code § 55-2-6a
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals
WISCONSIN	<u>'</u>	
	Torts	 Personal Injury: 3 years. Wis. Stat. § 893.54 Property Damage: 6 years. Wis. Stat. § 893.52
Statutes of Limitation	Contract	• 6 years. Wis. Stat. § 893.43
or Limitation	Governmental	 Notice within 120 days of claim's accrual. Wis. Stat. § 893.82 Suit within 3 years of notice. Wis. Stat. § 893.70
Statutes of Repose Damage Based Upon:	Product Liability	 For strict liability claim, 15 years from the date of manufacture unless there is a specific representation that the product will last longer than that. Wis. Stat.§ 895.047(5) For negligence claims, 25 years from the date of manufacture Wis. Stat.§ 895.046(5)
	Construction of Real Property	10 years from the date of substantial completion. Wis. Stat. § 893.89
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals

WYOMING		
Statutes of Limitation	Torts	 Personal Injury: 4 years. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-3-105 Property Damage: 4 years. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-3-105 Medical Malpractice: 2 years. Wyo. Stat. Ann. §1-3-107
	Contract	 Written: 10 years. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-3-105 Oral: 8 years. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-3-105
	Governmental	 Governmental Agencies: Written notice within 2 years. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-39-113 Suit filed within 1 year of written notice. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-39-114
Statutes	Product Liability	
of Repose Damage Based Upon:	Construction of Real Property	 10 years after substantial completion. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-3-111 If injury to property occurs during ninth year after substantial completion, action may be brought within one year after date of loss)
Certificate of Merit Requirement		There is no requirement for filing a certificate or affidavit of merit for claims against design or construction professionals

Note: This document is intended to provide a general overview of the laws enacted in each state. Many of the statutes listed are complex, and do not lend themselves to a concise summary. Also, while we have made every effort to verify the accuracy of the materials summarized as of the date indicated, these statutes and cases are subject to revision, amendment and modification, as well as to differing court interpretations. It therefore is intended that this document should serve only as a guideline, for purposes of general reference, and is not a substitute for legal advice from a qualified attorney. Please feel free to contact any Cozen O'Connor attorney for additional information and assistance. Note, also, this chart does not cover automobile no-fault statutes, which may provide a different period of limitation than the ones summarized in this chart.

The certificate of merit section of this chart only addresses claims against design or construction professionals. Many jurisdictions have separate certificate of merit statues for medical malpractice claims. This chart does not list certificate of merit statutes for medical malpractice claims.