

Supplement), title "Insurance," subtitle "3. Insurers; Authorization and General Requirements," to follow immediately after Section 55 thereof, and to read as follows:

55A.

In lieu of revocation or suspension of an insurer's certificate of authority the Commissioner may ~~accept a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$25,000 from the~~ IMPOSE A PENALTY OF NOT LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000) OR MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000) ON ANY insurer whose certificate of authority is subject to revocation or suspension under the provisions of this article.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1966.*

Approved April 29, 1966.

CHAPTER 376

(House Bill 327)

AN ACT to add new Section 306B to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "Crimes and Punishments," subheading "Health-Narcotic Drugs," to follow immediately after Section 306A thereof, to provide for a method of sentencing of drug addicts and generally dealing with the laws as they apply to drug addicts.

WHEREAS, Drug addiction has become an increasingly serious problem in this country, as shown by a report of the Committee of the Judiciary of the United States Senate which stated—"Drug addiction is more prevalent in this country than in any other nation of the western world. There are more addicts in this country than in all the countries of Europe combined."; and

WHEREAS, In the landmark case of *Robinson v. California*, Chief Justice Warren expressed in a concurring opinion—"But I do not see how under our system being an addict can be punished as a crime. If addicts can be punished for their addiction, then the insane can also be punished for their insanity. Each has a disease and each must be treated as a sick person."; and

WHEREAS, The Council on Mental Health reports that criminal sentences for addicts interferes with the possible treatment and rehabilitation of addicts and therefore should be abolished; and

WHEREAS, The National Council on Crime and Delinquency's Advisory Council of Judges stated—"The Narcotic drug addict is a sick person, physically and psychologically, and as such is entitled to qualified medical attention just as are other sick persons."; and

WHEREAS, In view of the above opinions and facts, legislation should be passed providing a better means of dealing with this problem; now, therefore,