

*Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund*

(Claim Section—Unsatisfied Claim and Judgment)

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The Attorney General is elected by the people for a term of four years (Const. 1867, Art. V, sec. 1). He may be re-elected with no limit being placed on the number of terms he may serve. He must be a citizen of the State and a qualified voter and must have resided and practiced law in Maryland for a period of at least ten years prior to his election. The date on which he takes office is unspecified either in the Constitution or in the Annotated Code, but customarily it occurs on December 20 following his election. The Attorney General of Maryland receives an annual salary of \$36,000. He heads the State Law Department, which was established by Chapter 560, Acts of 1916 (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, sec. 199). The Attorney General serves as legal counsel to the Governor, the General Assembly, and to all departments, boards, or commissions of the State, except the Public Service Commission, whose counsel is appointed by the Governor. The Attorney General and his assistants represent the State in all matters in which the interests of the State are involved. This includes litigation in the Court of Appeals of Maryland, the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, the District Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States. The Law Department also acts as counsel to the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City. He represents the Clerks of Court, the Registers of Wills, the Sheriffs and the State's Attorneys of the several counties and of the City of Baltimore. The Department does not represent the charter or noncharter counties, the County Boards of Education, the Boards of Supervisors of Elections (except in Baltimore City) or such other boards or officials of the counties, which employ their own counsel. The Attorney General may render an opinion on any legal subject or matter upon the request of the Governor, of the General Assembly (or either House thereof) or of any department or agency of the State (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 32A).

The administrative rules and regulations promulgated by any State officer or agency must be submitted to the Attorney General for review before they may become effective (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, sec. 9). The Department is responsible for the enforcement of the State Securities Act and for the Division of Consumer Protection and the Antitrust Division.