

County", sub-title "Circuit Court", Section 197 of Article 17 of said Code, title "Prince George's County", sub-title "Circuit Court", and Section 42 of Article 19 of said Code, title "St. Mary's County", sub-title "Circuit Court", to provide for the filing of demurrers in cases under the Speedy Judgment Act.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Section 69 of Article 5 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1930 Edition), title "Calvert County", sub-title "Circuit Court", Section 39 of Article 9 of said Code, title "Charles County", sub-title "Circuit Court", Section 197 of Article 17 of said Code, title "Prince George's County", sub-title "Circuit Court", and Section 42 of Article 19 of said Code, title "St. Mary's County", sub-title "Circuit Court", be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

In any action hereafter brought in any Circuit Court in the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland arising *ex contractu*, if the plaintiff or his agent shall file at the time of bringing his action an affidavit setting out distinctly his cause of action and the sum he claims to be due, exclusive of all set-offs and just grounds of defense, and shall serve the defendant with copies of his declaration and of said affidavit, he shall be entitled to a judgment for the amount so claimed, with interest and costs, forty days after such service unless the defendant shall file a plea which if in bar is accompanied by an affidavit of defense denying the right of plaintiff as to the whole or some specified part of his claim specially stating also, in precise and distinct terms, the ground of his defense, which must be such, as would, if true, be sufficient to defeat the plaintiff's claim in whole or in part; and where the defendant shall have acknowledged in his affidavit of defense his liability for a part of the plaintiff's claim as aforesaid, the plaintiff, if he so elect may have judgment entered in his favor for the amount so confessed to be due, such judgment to be a bar to any further amount not so confessed. Any judge of the Circuit Court is hereby authorized, either in vacation or term time to enter judgment under this section where no affidavit of defense is filed and to hear motion for judgment and to enter judgment thereon where insufficient affidavits are filed; provided, however, that should any defendant file a demurrer to any declaration filed under this Act, said demurrer must be in accordance with Section 9 of Article 75 of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland and within twenty days after service of process under this Act, and the affidavit of defense required hereunder need not be filed until after the hearing on de-