SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the charter of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, as said charter was enacted by chapter 52 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1896, and as amended by chapter 188 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1898, and by chapter 261 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1900, and by chapter 86 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1902, be and the same is hereby amended by repealing sections 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of said chapter 52 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1896.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That section 14 of said chapter 52 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1896, be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, so as to read as follows:

SEC. 14. *And be it enacted*, That said company shall be and is hereby authorized and empowered to insure the fidelity of any person, partnership, association, corporation or company holding any place or position of trust or responsibility, or owing any duty, contractual or otherwise, to any other person, partnership, association, corporation, company, or to any city, county, State, territorial or foreign government, or to the United States Government, or any officer, board, commission, department or other governmental agency of any such governments; to become surety or go upon any bond, undertaking or other obligation for the faithful performance of any trust, office, duty, contract, obligation or agreement; to become surety, or go upon any bond, undertaking or other obligation of whatsoever nature, character or description, including all bonds, undertakings or other obligations permitted, required or authorized by any order, ordinance, rule, regulation or law in connection with any judicial proceeding, or with the performance of any duty imposed, or act permitted by law. That said company shall be and is hereby authorized and empowered to become sole surety in all cases where by law two or more sureties are required, and it shall be lawful for any court, register, clerk or other officer or person, whose duty it is to approve any bond or other obligation permitted, required or authorized by law to be executed by two or more sureties, to approve such bond or obligation when executed by said company as sole surety. That said company shall be and is hereby authorized and empowered to receive and hold collateral and indemnity of any nature or kind whatsoever, to secure it against loss on any bond or other obligation issued by it, and to enforce any bond, contract, obligation, pledge or other se-