

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect from the first day of June, nineteen hundred and twenty-four.

Approved April 9, 1924.

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CHAPTER 135.

AN ACT to add a new section to Article 9 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, title, "Charles County," sub-title, "Circuit Court," said new section to be known as Section 48-A and to follow immediately after Section 48 of said Article, providing for speedy judgments in certain cases.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That a new section be and it is hereby added to Article 9 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, title, "Charles County," sub-title, "Circuit Court," said new section to be known as Section 48-A, to follow immediately after Section 48 of said Article and to read as follows:

48-A. In any action hereafter brought in the Circuit Court of Charles County 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 the 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. 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.

Notice shall be given at the bottom of the declaration and in the summons in such cases where the plaintiff intends to claim the benefits of this Section.