

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if any sub-section, subdivision, paragraph, sentence or clause of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Act.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1949.

Approved April 29, 1949.

CHAPTER 511

(House Bill 58)

AN ACT to repeal Section 140A of Article 48A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1947 Supplement), title "Insurance", sub-title "Surety, Casualty, Liability and Compensation Insurance", and to enact in lieu thereof a new section to be known as Section 140A, to follow immediately after Section 140 of said Article, relating to the making, filing and approval of rates for certain casualty insurance, including fidelity, surety and guaranty bonds, and to rating organizations.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Section 140A of Article 48A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1947 Supplement), title "Insurance", sub-title "Surety, Casualty, Liability and Compensation Insurance", be and the same is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof a new section be and hereby is enacted to be known as Section 140A, to follow immediately after Section 140 and to read as follows:

140A. Casualty and Surety Rating.

1—PURPOSE OF ACT.

The purpose of this Act is to promote the public welfare by regulating insurance rates to the end that they shall not be excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory, and to authorize and regulate cooperative action among insurers in rate making and in other matters within the scope of this Act. Nothing in this Act is intended (1) to prohibit or discourage reasonable competition, or (2) to prohibit, or encourage except to the extent necessary to accomplish the aforementioned purpose, uniformity in insurance rates, rating systems, rating plans or practices. This Act shall be liberally interpreted to carry into effect the provisions of this sub-section.