

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 12 of Article 14B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Supplement), title "State Boat Act," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

12.

(a) The Department of [Tidewater Fisheries] *Chesapeake Bay Affairs* is charged with the duty primarily of enforcing the provisions of this article and any other laws applicable to boats using the waters of Maryland, and all enforcement officers in the exercise thereof shall have the authority to stop, board, inspect any vessel. Other duties shall comprise the clearing of waterways of logs, debris, and other material detrimental to navigation; and cooperation with federal, State or local agencies which make funds available for the purposes of this article.

(b) *The Department shall also have the duty of towing disabled vessels upon any tidal waters of the State to the nearest safe harbor or to location where commercial towing facilities are available for the purpose of protecting life and property. This duty shall not authorize the Department to engage in towing in any situation where commercial towing services are available, it being the intention of the General Assembly that the Department shall not engage in towing in competition with commercial towing services.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1966.

Approved April 29, 1966.

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CHAPTER 487

(House Bill 959)

AN ACT to add new Section 377B to Article 48A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume), title "Insurance," subtitle "Insurance Contracts Generally," to follow immediately after Section 377A thereof, to make any clause in an insurance contract which limits the time for filing claims to less than that as set by the statute of limitations to be illegal and void.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 377B be and it is hereby added to Article 48A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume), title "Insurance," subtitle "Insurance Contracts Generally," to follow immediately after Section 377A thereof, and to read as follows:

377B.

*All provisions and stipulations contained in any Contract of Insurance or suretyship, whatsoever, heretofore or hereafter issued, fixing the time in which suits or actions may be instituted under or upon any such Contracts at a period of time less than that provided at the time of the issuance or delivery of any such Contract by the laws or statutes of Maryland in respect of limitations are hereby*