

202.

*The purpose of this subtitle is to subject certain persons and insurers to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, of proceedings before the Commissioner, and of the courts of this State in suits by or on behalf of the State and insureds or beneficiaries under insurance contracts. The General Assembly declares that it is a subject of concern that many residents of this State hold policies of insurance issued by persons and insurers not authorized to do insurance business in this State, thus presenting to such residents the often insuperable obstacle of asserting their legal rights under such policies in forums foreign to them under laws and rules of practice with which they are not familiar. The General Assembly declares that it is also concerned with the protection of residents of the State against acts by persons and insurers not authorized to do an insurance business in this State by the maintenance of fair and honest insurance markets, by protecting the premium tax revenues of this State, by protecting authorized persons and insurers, which are subject to strict regulation, from unfair competition by unauthorized persons and insurers and by protecting against the evasion of the insurance regulatory laws of the State. In furtherance of such State interest, the General Assembly herein provides methods for substituted service of process upon such persons or insurers in any proceeding, suit or action in any court and substitute service of any notice, order, pleading or process upon such persons or insurers in any proceeding before the Commissioner to enforce or effect full compliance with the insurance and tax statutes of the State, and declares in so doing it exercises its power to protect residents of this State and to define what constitutes doing an insurance business in this State, and also exercises powers and privileges available to the State by virtue of Public Law 15, 79th Congress of the United States, (Chapter 20, 1st Sess., S. 340), as amended, which declares that the business of insurance and every person engaged therein shall be subject to the laws of the several states.*

203.

*(a) Any of the following acts in this State, effected by mail or otherwise, is defined to be doing an insurance business in this State. The venue of an act committed by mail is at the point where the matter transmitted by mail is delivered and takes effect:*

*(1) The making of or proposing to make, as an insurer, an insurance contract.*

*(2) The making of or proposing to make, as guarantor or surety, any contract of guaranty or suretyship as a vocation and not merely incidental to any other legitimate business or activity of the guarantor or surety.*

*(3) The taking or receiving of any application for insurance.*

*(4) The receiving or collection of any premium, commission, membership fees, assessments, dues or other consideration for any insurance or any part thereof.*

*(5) The issuance or delivery of contracts of insurance to residents of this State or to persons authorized to do business in this State.*