

after the thirty day notice by registered mail has been sent to his last known address.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 156A of Article 66½ of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition and 1967 Replacement Volume), title "Motor Vehicles," subtitle "Unsatisfied Claim and Judgment Fund," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

156A.

As soon as practicable after assignment of any claim or action to an insurer for investigation and defense, and if the Board finds that the defendant was negligent and that his negligence was the proximate cause of the accident from which the action arises, the Board shall negotiate with the plaintiff to obtain an offer of settlement of the claim or action. If the Board finds that the plaintiff's offer is reasonable, it shall submit the offer to the defendant for acceptance or rejection. If defendant accepts the offer, the plaintiff shall proceed to settlement provided in Section 161 herein. If defendant rejects the offer, the Board shall cause a notice to be served upon the defendant sent by registered mail to his last known address which shall state: (1) That the insurer to which the claim or action was assigned for defense shall withdraw from the claim or action without further notice at the expiration of thirty days from the date of notice; (2) That defendant has thirty days from the date of the notice within which to engage counsel of his own selection to defend him in the claim or action and that his counsel shall enter his appearance for defendant within the thirty-day period or that defendant may enter an appearance in his own behalf in the claim or action within the said period; and (3) That, if the provisions of item (2) hereinabove are not complied with, at any time after thirty days from the date of the notice and without further notice, judgment may be entered against him in the claim or action in the amount of the settlement offer. After the expiration of any thirty-day period of notice to a defendant, the Board may request the court to set the claim or action for a hearing. At the hearing the court may proceed in a summary manner, and if it is satisfied that this section or any other applicable provisions of this subtitle have been complied with, it may enter judgment against the defendant in favor of the plaintiff in the amount of the settlement offer. *The defendant has ten days in which to appeal from the date of the entry of the judgment.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1969.*

Approved May 14, 1969.

CHAPTER 664
(House Bill 505)

AN ACT to repeal Sections 47(c-4) and 48 of Article 26 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Supplement), title "Courts,"