

firms, corporations, or the federal government; and the acceptance of the rights and privileges of using the highways or the operation of the motor vehicle by the nonresident individual, firm, or corporation, as hereinbefore provided, shall be a signification of his, their, or its agreement that the process be of the same legal force and validity (except as hereinafter provided) as if served on him, them, or it personally.

(b) Service of these persons shall be made by leaving a copy of the process with a fee of \$2.00 in the hands of the Secretary of State or in his office, or by sending a copy of the process by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Secretary of State, for which the clerks of courts, justices of the peace, or trial magistrates shall collect a fee of one dollar to cover the cost of mailing, and this service shall be sufficient service upon the said nonresident individual, firm, or corporation, and of full force and effect in any court and before any justice of the peace or trial magistrate of this State; provided that notice of the service and a copy of the declaration, cause of action, or titling shall forthwith be sent by registered mail by the plaintiff or his attorney to the defendant and defendant's return receipt and the plaintiff's or his attorney's affidavit of compliance herewith shall be filed with the clerk of the court or before the justice of the peace or trial magistrate in which the proceedings are pending.

(c) If the return receipt is not returned to the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, signed by the defendant, notice of the service and a copy of the declaration, cause of action, or titling, shall be served upon the defendant by any person authorized to serve process under the law of the jurisdiction in which the defendant may be found; and when a declaration, cause of action, or titling in the action shall have been filed in court or before a justice of the peace or trial magistrate and service of process made upon the Secretary of State, and notice thereof and a copy of the declaration, cause of action, or titling sent to the defendant, and the defendant's return receipt, together with the affidavit of compliance, or an affidavit by the person making the service on the defendant, that a notice of the service and a copy of the declaration, cause of action, or titling have been served upon the defendant by a person authorized to serve process under the law of the jurisdiction in which the defendant was found, filed with the clerk of the court or before the justice of the peace or trial magistrate as hereinabove provided.

(d) The defendant shall plead to said declaration, cause of action, or titling within sixty days from the date of delivery of the notice of service and copy of the declaration, cause of action, or titling noted upon the return receipt, or from the date of service of process upon the defendant by a person authorized, under the law of the jurisdiction in which the defendant was found to serve process.

(e) And if the defendant fails to so plead, judgment by default shall be entered against him, by the court or clerk thereof or the justice of the peace, or trial magistrate, upon motion in writing made by the plaintiff or his attorney, at any time thereafter, before the defendant has pleaded, unless the court, the justice of the peace or trial magistrate for good reasons, has granted the defendant further time to plead; and upon the entry of judgment, the plaintiff may forthwith sue out his writ of inquiry, or otherwise enter up final judgment, according to the course of the court.