

22A. Comparative Negligence.

(a) *In all actions brought to recover damages for death, injuries to a person, or injuries to property caused by the negligence of another, the fact that the plaintiff may have been guilty of contributory negligence shall not bar a recovery unless the trier of fact finds that the contributory negligence of the plaintiff was equal to or exceeded, by comparison, GREATER THAN the negligence of the defendant or defendants as the proximate cause of the death or injuries.*

(b) *The contributory negligence of the plaintiff, shall, if less NOT GREATER, by comparison, than the negligence of the defendant or defendants, be considered by the trier of fact in the mitigation of damages in proportion to the amount of contributory negligence attributable to the plaintiff. In each case, the trier of fact shall, in its verdict, find separately (i) the amount of damages, if any, to be awarded to the plaintiff assuming that the plaintiff was not guilty of any contributory negligence, (ii) the amount, expressed in percentage, of total negligence proximately causing the death or injuries attributable to the plaintiff as contributory negligence, and (iii) the net award to the plaintiff, which shall be the total award of damages reduced by a percentage thereof equal to the percentage of negligence attributable to the plaintiff.*

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted, That new Section 45 be and it is hereby added to Article 10 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Attorneys at Law and Attorneys in Fact," to follow immediately after Section 44 of said article and title under the new subtitle "Contingent Fees," and to read as follows:*

45. Contingent Fees.

In any claim or cause of action in tort for personal injury or death arising out of the operation of a motor vehicle, whether determined by judgment, arbitration, or settlement, in which the right to or amount of compensation of the claimant's attorney is contingent in whole or in part upon the amount of recovery, the compensation shall not exceed 25% of the first \$5,000 of recovery and 22½% of the amount of recovery in excess of \$5,000.

SEC. 5 4. *Be it further enacted, That new Section 22A be and it is hereby added to Article 26 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Courts," subtitle "Judgments," to follow immediately after Section 22 of said article, title and subtitle, and that Section 145(c) of said article and title, subtitle "District Courts" be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:*

22A. Interest on automobile liability claims.

(a) *In any action for bodily injuries arising from the operation of a motor vehicle in which a money judgment is entered in favor of the plaintiff, the court may, in its discretion, assess interest at the rate of six percent per annum upon the amount of the judgment dating from a time not earlier than the date upon which the action*