

(4) ~~Prohibited Jurisdiction.~~ The District Court shall have no equity jurisdiction, nor shall it have jurisdiction to try title to real property.

(5) ~~Pleadings.~~ In all civil actions in which the amount in controversy is one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or less, there shall be no formal pleadings. In all other cases forms and pleadings shall be as provided by rule.

SEC. 5. *AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED*, THAT SECTION 135 OF ARTICLE 81 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (1969 REPLACEMENT VOLUME), TITLE "REVENUE AND TAXES," SUBTITLE "INSURANCE TAXES" BE AND IT IS HEREBY REPEALED AND RE-ENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

135. DEFINITIONS.

AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE:

(1) THE PHRASE "INSURANCE COMPANY" MEANS (A) EVERY PERSON ENGAGED AS PRINCIPAL IN THE BUSINESS OF WRITING INSURANCE, SURETY, GUARANTY OR ANNUITY CONTRACTS (EXCEPT NONPROFIT HOSPITAL SERVICE PLAN CORPORATIONS AND FRATERNAL BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATIONS) AND INCLUDES MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANIES, TITLE INSURANCE COMPANIES, *THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND* AND CREDIT INDEMNITY COMPANIES, AND (B) ATTORNEYS IN FACT FOR RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES OR INTER-INSURERS.

(2) THE TERM "PREMIUMS" INCLUDES THE CONSIDERATION FOR SURETY, GUARANTY AND ANNUITY CONTRACTS, DIVIDENDS ON LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES WHICH HAVE BEEN APPLIED TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL INSURANCE OR TO SHORTEN THE PREMIUM PAYING PERIOD, AND SO MUCH OF THE GROSS RECEIPTS OF TITLE INSURANCE COMPANIES AS IS DERIVED FROM THE BUSINESS OF INSURANCE OR GUARANTY, BUT SHALL NOT INCLUDE PREMIUMS ON POLICIES COVERING WEEKLY DISABILITY BENEFITS ON WHICH PREMIUMS ARE PAYABLE WEEKLY, OR CREDITS ALLOWED ON PREMIUMS UNDER POLICIES OF INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE BY REASON OF PAYMENT THEREOF BEING MADE TO THE HOME OFFICE OR TO A BRANCH OFFICE OF THE COMPANY.

(3) THE TERM "POLICY" INCLUDES INSURANCE, SURETY, GUARANTY AND ANNUITY CONTRACTS.

(4) THE PHRASE "PROPERTY INSURANCE" MEANS INSURANCE KNOWN AS FIRE, EXTENDED COVERAGE, HOMEOWNERS, FARM OWNERS, AND OTHER ALLIED LINES, EARTHQUAKE, GROWING CROPS, AIRCRAFT PHYSICAL DAMAGE, AUTOMOBILE PHYSICAL DAMAGE, GLASS, LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL.

SEC. 5 6. *Be it further enacted*, That if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held