

SECTION 55. *And be it further enacted*, That Sections 9-301(b), 9-301(c), 9-301(e), 9-301(g), 14-115, 16-105(b), 16-106, 16-107, 16-107.2(e), 16-108(c), 16-109(a), 16-109(c), 16-109.1, 16-111, 16-112, 16-113(c), and 16-117(b) of Article 66½, Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitles, respectively, "Civil Liability," "Size, Weight and Load," and "Parties and Procedure upon Arrest, Trial, Citation and Appeal," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

§ 9-301. Service of process on nonresidents and on residents who leave State.

(b) How service made.—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) Procedure if registered notice not received.—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.

(e) Judgment by default.—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.