

CHAPTER 106

(Senate Bill 270)

AN ACT concerning

Collection Agencies - Penalties

FOR the purpose of imposing penalties for certain violations of the law regulating collection agencies and permitting the Collection Agency Licensing Board to apply for injunctive relief in certain cases.

BY adding to

Article 56 - Licenses
Section 329B and 329C
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1972 Replacement Volume and 1978 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 56 - Licenses

329B.

ANY PERSON WHO SHALL KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY ENGAGE IN THE BUSINESS OF A COLLECTION AGENCY WITHOUT OBTAINING A LICENSE AS REQUIRED BY THIS SUBTITLE, AND ANY PERSON HAVING OBTAINED A LICENSE WHO CONTINUES IN BUSINESS AFTER REVOCATION OR DURING SUSPENSION THEREOF, IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND UPON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000, OR IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 6 MONTHS, OR BOTH.

329C.

THE BOARD, IF IT CONCLUDES THAT ANY ALLEGED CONTINUING VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN IRREPARABLE DAMAGE, OR THAT ANY COLLECTION AGENCY AS DEFINED BY THIS SUBTITLE HAS CONTINUED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT OBTAINING A LICENSE, MAY APPLY FOR RELIEF BY INJUNCTION IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OR IN THE BALTIMORE CITY COURT, AS THE CASE MAY BE, EITHER WHERE THE ALLEGED VIOLATION IS OCCURRING OR WHERE THE VIOLATOR HAS HIS PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1979.