

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 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows: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 48A - Insurance Code

541.

(c) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION "UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE" MEANS A MOTOR VEHICLE WHOSE OWNERSHIP, MAINTENANCE, OR USE HAS RESULTED IN THE BODILY INJURY OR DEATH OF AN INSURED, AND FOR WHICH THE SUM OF THE LIMITS OF LIABILITY UNDER ALL VALID AND COLLECTIBLE LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICIES, BONDS, AND SECURITIES APPLICABLE TO THE BODILY INJURY OR DEATH IS LESS THAN THE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE PROVIDED TO THE INSURED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

(2) In addition to any other coverage required by this subtitle, every policy of motor vehicle liability insurance issued, sold, or delivered in this State after July 1, 1975 shall contain coverage, in at least the amounts required under Title 17 of the Transportation Article, for damages which the insured is entitled to recover from the owner or operator of an uninsured motor vehicle because of bodily injuries sustained in an accident arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of such uninsured motor vehicle. HOWEVER--THE--INSURED--SHALL---BE---OFFERED---THE OPPORTUNITY---TO--CONTRACT--FOR--FAMILY--MEMBERS--AND--OTHER OCCUPANTS--OF--THE--MOTOR--VEHICLE,--AT--AN--ADDITIONAL--PREMIUM, FOR--LIMITS--HIGHER--THAN--THOSE--PROVIDED--UNDER--TITLE--17--OF--THE TRANSPORTATION--ARTICLE,--AS--LONG--AS--SUCH--LIMITS--DO--NOT--EXCEED THE--LIMITS--OF--THE--AUTOMOBILE THERE SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO THE INSURED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRACT FOR HIGHER AMOUNTS THAN THOSE PROVIDED UNDER TITLE 17 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE IF THESE AMOUNTS DO NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNTS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY COVERAGE PROVIDED BY THE POLICY. The coverage required under this subsection (c) shall be in such form and subject to such conditions as may be approved by the Commissioner of Insurance. Any provision in any policy of motor vehicle liability insurance issued after July 1, 1975, with respect to the coverage provided for damages sustained by the insured as a result of the operation of an uninsured motor vehicle, which commands or requires the submission of any dispute between the insured and the insurer to binding arbitration, is prohibited and shall be of no legal force or effect. In no case shall the uninsured motorist coverage be less than the coverage afforded a qualified person under Article 48A §§ 243H and 243-1. The coverage required under this subsection shall be primary to any right to recover from the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund pursuant to § 243H of this article.

(3) THE LIMIT OF LIABILITY FOR AN INSURER PROVIDING UNINSURED MOTORIST COVERAGE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IS THE AMOUNT OF THAT COVERAGE LESS THE SUM OF THE LIMITS