

prospective buyer, and to generally relate to the contractual rights of married and unmarried women.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 5 of Article 45 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Husband and Wife"; be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments; that new Section 128(c) be and it is hereby added to Article 83 of the Code (1969 Replacement Volume), title "Sales and Notices," subtitle "Retail Installment Sales," to follow immediately after Section 128(d) thereof; and that Section 153C(b) of the same Article and title, subtitle "Retail Credit Accounts Law," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, and all to read as follows:

Article 45

5.

Married women shall have power to engage in any business, and to contract, whether engaged in business or not, and to sue upon their contracts, and also to sue for the recovery, security or protection of their property, and for torts committed against them, as fully as if they were unmarried; contracts may also be made with them, and they may also be sued separately upon their contracts, whether made before or during marriage, and for wrongs independent of contract committed by them before or during their marriage, as fully as if they were unmarried; and upon judgments recovered against them, execution may be issued as if they were unmarried; nor shall any husband be liable upon any contract made by his wife in her own name and upon her own responsibility, nor for any tort committed separately by her out of his presence, without his participation or sanction.

THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION APPLY TO ALL CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS ENTERED INTO BY MARRIED OR UNMARRIED WOMEN, INCLUDING RETAIL INSTALLMENT SALES OR RETAIL CREDIT ACCOUNTS AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 83 OF THIS CODE.

Article 83

128.

(E) NO SELLER MAY DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY INSTALLMENT BUYER BECAUSE OF THE SEX OR MARITAL STATUS OF THE BUYER.

153C.

(b) A retail credit account may be established by the seller or financial institution upon the request of a buyer or prospective buyer. NO SELLER OR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION SHALL DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY BUYER OR PROSPECTIVE BUYER WISHING TO ESTABLISH A RETAIL CREDIT ACCOUNT BECAUSE OF THE SEX OR MARITAL STATUS OF THE BUYER. Each such retail credit account agreement shall be in writing and signed by the buyer or, the seller or financial institution shall have made a reasonable attempt to obtain the signature of the buyer to such a written agreement. A legend stating that service charges will be made, in amounts or at rates not in excess of those permitted by law, shall be printed in type no smaller than elite typewriter characters, both in the application form used by the seller or