

13.

In order to provide for, strengthen, and expedite [civil defense and] national defense under the emergency conditions which are threatening the peace and security of the United States and of this State and to enable this State the more successfully to fulfill the requirements of [civil defense and] national defense, provision is made to suspend enforcement of civil liabilities, in certain cases of persons in [civil defense] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE service in order to enable such persons to devote their entire energy to the [civil defense and defense] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE needs of the State and nation; and in certain cases of persons who have suffered personal injury or property damage in order to enable such persons to devote their entire energy to the cure or improvement of the injuries or damage suffered; and to this end the following provisions are made for the temporary suspension of legal proceedings and transactions which may prejudice the civil rights of persons in such service during the period herein specified over which this subtitle remains in force.

14.

(a) The term "person in [civil defense] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE service" in this subtitle means a person who is a member of or who works for the State [civil defense and disaster preparedness] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE organization or a local [civil defense and disaster preparedness] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE organization.

(b) The term "person suffering injury or damage" in this subtitle means a person who has suffered a death in his immediate family, serious personal injury to himself or a member of his immediate family, or extensive property damage to property owned by him or by a member of his immediate family.

(c) The definitions in subsections (a) and (b) apply and [the] THIS entire subtitle is effective and applicable only during the effective period of an official proclamation by the Governor which declares a stated area to be within [a civil defense] AN emergency or disaster area, actual or threatened.

(e) The term "person" when used in this subtitle with reference to the holder of any right alleged to exist against a person in [civil defense] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE service or a person suffering injury or damage or against a person secondarily liable under such right, includes individuals, partnerships, corporations, and any other forms of business association.

17.