

No 759, A.]

[Published April 28, 1893.

## CHAPTER 235.

AN ACT to prevent the multiplicity of suits against insurance companies, and permitting the insured to consolidate his claims, upon more than one policy of insurance or award, in one suit.

*The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

Insurance companies may be joined as defendants.

Separate judgments to be entered.

SECTION 1. Should the insured bring suit upon any policy or policies of insurance, he can join, as parties defendant, any or all the insurance companies interested in the loss, and any and all the issues shall be tried at once by one jury which shall assess, at the same trial, the amount due and payable upon each such policy. It shall also be the duty of the court, in its discretion, to direct the jury to return successive verdicts, so that all questions involved may be disposed of at one trial, and said court may charge the jury upon one issue or issues, and take the verdict, and then again charge the jury upon other questions or issues, and thus take and receive as many verdicts as it may, in its descretion, deem best or necessary for the final determination of all the issues. Upon such trial, a separate judgment shall be entered as against each insurance company, for the amount of the verdict which may be rendered against such insurance company, together with its proportion of the costs in such suit, and such costs shall include, in each judgment, all necessary disbursements, and an attorney's fee of twenty dollars.

SECTION 2. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 17, 1893.