

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That sub-sections (c) and (d) of Section 96 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1956 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "Desertion of Wife or Child", be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

96.

(c) In certain counties trial magistrates have concurrent jurisdiction with circuit court.—Provided that in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, [Wicomico] and Worcester counties, the trial magistrates shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court of each of the respective counties to try persons violating the provisions of this sub-title. And further provided, that in Allegany County the justice of the peace, known as the magistrate for juvenile cases, shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court for said County to try persons violating the provisions of this sub-title and that imprisonment of offenders shall not exceed two years.

(d) Special provision for Washington County and Wicomico County.—In addition to the other duties now imposed by law upon the magistrate for juvenile cases in Washington County, and upon the trial magistrates in Wicomico County, he or they shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction to hear, try and determine all cases involving desertion of or the wilful neglect by a husband or father to provide for the support and maintenance of his wife or minor child or children, or by a child to provide for the support and maintenance of needy parents in accordance with the provisions of this section and of § 112 of this article, upon a warrant or warrants issued for that purpose. Any person convicted of said charge and feeling aggrieved by the decision or any order of the *magistrate or* magistrate for juvenile cases passed pursuant to the authority vested in him as above set forth may at any time prior to the beginning of the next jury term of the circuit court for [Washington] the County, appeal therefrom to the said circuit court for [Washington] the County, upon posting bond for his appearance at the ensuing term of said court, in such penal sum as the magistrate for juvenile cases may determine, executed by the party requesting said appeal, with or without surety, in the discretion of said magistrate. The State's attorney for [Washington] the County may also enter an appeal to the circuit court for [Washington] the County on behalf of the State of Maryland in any case coming within the provisions of this section at any time that he feels that the interest of justice may so require. The pendency of any such appeal or application therefor shall not suspend the order of the magistrate for juvenile cases unless specifically so ordered by the judges of the circuit court for [Washington] the County and the judgment or order of the said magistrate for juvenile cases shall be final unless reversed, revised or modified by the circuit court for [Washington] the County upon appeal.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1957.

Approved March 28, 1957.