

shall mean any of the biennial elections at which members of the House of Representatives are regularly chosen.

152E. (a) The two Judges of said Court shall select one of the Judges of said Court as Chief Judge and Administrative Officer who shall receive an annual salary of Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$6,500). The other Judge shall receive an annual salary of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000).

(b) The Judges of said Court may engage in the private practice of law during their terms of office but not in said Court nor in connection with any case of which the People's Court has jurisdiction.

152F. Judges of the Court shall both sit at Ellicott City.

152G. The Judges of the People's Court of Howard County shall have all the authority, power, civil and criminal jurisdiction in the whole of said county, heretofore vested in the justices of the peace designated as trial magistrates and other justices of the peace of said county. In civil cases, the Judges shall have jurisdiction in cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), which jurisdictions shall be exclusive in cases involving amounts not exceeding Three Hundred Dollars (\$300), and provided that all cases where the amount in controversy exceeds Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) may be immediately transferred or removed for trial by any party to the Circuit Court for Howard County.

152H. In addition to the power above enumerated and not in derogation or limitation thereof, the Judges of the People's Court shall have the following powers:

(a) To provide by appropriate rules and printed forms, for the administration of said Court and for the expeditious, orderly, efficient and simple practice and procedure in said Court which may relate to, and include, but shall not be limited to, the fixing of court costs, registered or certified mail service, return days, practice in suits against nonresidents, attachments, replevins, joint tort-feasors, counterclaims, cross-claims, and consolidations, continuances, depositions, dismissals, arbitrations, set-offs, appeal bonds, summary judgments, judgments by default, judgments by confession, supplementary proceedings, new trial, and such other matters not inconsistent with law. Such rules shall have the force of law until rescinded or modified by the said Judges or by the General Assembly.

(b) To punish for contempt of court.

(c) To suspend or reduce sentence and/or costs in any case within their jurisdiction within ten (10) days after judgment has been pronounced.

152-I. (a) The Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Senate shall appoint justices of the peace in Howard County who shall be designated committing magistrates of the People's Court of Howard County and who from and after January 1, 1965, shall have throughout the county all the powers and jurisdiction vested by law in justices of the peace other than trial magistrates and substitute trial magistrates.

(b) From and after January 1, 1965, the committing magistrates shall receive an annual salary set by the County Commissioners.