

AN ACT for the speedy Trial of Misdemeanors in the City of Baltimore.
1835, ch. 75.

WHEREAS, it has been represented to this general assembly, Preamble.
that owing to the great increase of business in Baltimore city court, the judges thereof have found it expedient to hold weekly sessions during the intervals of their regular terms, for hearing cases that do not require the intervention of a grand jury, and that it would be a saving of much expense to the city, as well as afford relief to persons charged with the commission of small offences, and also to witnesses who are mostly of the poorer class of the community, if said persons so charged had the option of having their cases also promptly decided without the delay and expense attendant upon the present mode of preparing them for trial; therefore,

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Baltimore city court, or either of the judges thereof, shall have power and authority, without any previous presentment by the grand jury, to hear and determine at the said weekly session of said court, all complaints for assault and battery, for keeping disorderly houses, for keeping houses of ill-fame, for violations of the act, entitled, an act to regulate the issuing of licenses to traders and keepers of ordinaries, passed at the session of eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, chapter one hundred and seventeen, and the supplements thereto, and for any other small offence, for which no greater punishment than fine and imprisonment can be imposed, in the same manner and to the same extent and effect, as the said court now do cases submitted to them during the regular terms, after presentment by the grand jury.

Authority to decide causes for small offences without presentment.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the several justices of the peace within the said city, to make all recognizances taken by them respectively from any person or persons charged with any of said offences, and also of the witnesses, conditioned for their appearance at the then next succeeding day fixed by the said court for its weekly session, and return the same without delay to the clerk of said court, to be docketed and proceeded on under the direction of the court, and shall also make their commitments of persons to jail, for trial at the same time.

Recognizance made returnable, &c.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the warden of the jail, to return to the clerk of said court, on the day preceding its weekly session, a list of all persons confined for offences of the foregoing description, with copies of their commitments, and list of any witnesses they may require to be summoned in their defence.

Warden to report weekly.