

upon affidavit for any cause now provided for by law, shall exist for the benefit of the litigants.

*Transfer From City Magistrate.*

1927, ch. 297, sec. 179G.

**331.** All suits or proceedings brought before any one of the City Magistrates of Cumberland, Maryland, and in which final judgment has not been rendered before this Act shall take effect, shall be transferred to said Peoples Court on the original papers, together with a transcript of the docket entries; said transfer shall be made by the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Allegany County, Maryland; on application of any party to the cause and said causes shall be tried on said original papers and docket entries; and the fact that the same was begun before this Act takes effect, shall not in any way affect the rights of the parties thereto.

*Exclusive and Concurrent Jurisdiction.*

1927, ch. 297, sec. 179H.

**332.** In all suits or causes under this Act when the amount claimed or the things in action shall not be more than \$150.00, said Justices shall have exclusive jurisdiction, subject to appeal; and the concurrent jurisdiction of said Justices with the Circuit Court shall be in all cases when the sum claimed or thing in action exceeds \$150.00 and does not exceed \$300.00.

*Practice.*

1927, ch. 297, sec. 179I.

**333.** Whenever a civil cause shall be docketed before said Justices, a summons shall forthwith issue to the defendant or defendants, as the case may be, returnable on a day named therein, not less than six nor more than ten days from the time of the filing of the suit; and if the defendant or defendants are fully summoned and fail to appear on the return day named therein, the cause shall be continued not less than three nor more than five days from the return day; and if the defendant or defendants as the case may be, fail to appear on the day to which said cause is continued, the case shall then be tried *ex parte* and the judgment rendered accordingly.

1927, ch. 297, sec. 179K.

**334.** The practice, procedure and rules for the trial and conduct of all causes before said Justices shall be such as have been found proper by usage and custom where the same is found applicable, except that there shall be no special pleading; the common counts or a like declaration, or one similar to the Speedy Judgment Act in form, and the form of pleas may be used; all causes of action shall begin upon the filing of a brief copy of the claim or the instrument upon which the suit is brought;