

1884, ch 510.

**182.** The several justices of the peace of Allegany, Montgomery, Prince George's, Harford, Calvert, Anne Arundel, Wicomico, Caroline, Talbot, St. Mary's, Garrett, Howard, Somerset, Washington, Dorchester, Kent, and Charles counties shall have, in addition to the jurisdiction which they now possess, and which may be conferred upon them by or under the laws of this State, jurisdiction concurrent with that exercised by the circuit courts for said counties in all cases of assault without any felonious intent; and in all cases of assault and battery, and in all cases of petit larceny, when the value of the property stolen does not exceed the sum of five dollars, and in all misdemeanors not punishable by confinement in the penitentiary, which may be committed within their respective jurisdictions; and shall have jurisdiction in all prosecutions or proceedings for the recovery of any penalty for doing or omitting to do any act, the doing of which, or the omission to do which, is made punishable under the laws of this State, within their said jurisdiction by any pecuniary fine or penalty or by imprisonment in jail or in the Maryland House of Correction; all of which acts or omissions are hereby declared to be criminal offences; and the said justices shall have power to issue all process and to do all acts which may be necessary to the exercise of their said jurisdiction, and may try and determine all cases whereof they may have jurisdiction, and may pronounce judgment and sentence therein in the same manner and to the same extent as the circuit court for said counties could in such cases, if such cases were tried before them without the intervention of a jury; provided, however, that if any person, when brought before any such justice having jurisdiction of the case, shall before trial for the alleged offence pray a jury trial, or if the State's attorney for said county shall, before the trial of such alleged offence, pray a jury trial on the part of the State, it shall be the duty of any such justice to commit such alleged offender for trial in the circuit court for the county in which the offence was committed at its then session, if it be then in session, or at its next session, if it be not then in session, and to return said commitment or recognizance, with the names and residence of the witnesses for the prosecution endorsed thereon, forthwith to the clerk of the said court; and the justice before whom the case is tried shall inform the person charged of his right to a jury trial.