

Police Justices the power heretofore conferred upon them, to hear and determine cases, and to the Grand Jury to hear, present and indict when deemed desirable by that Body, and providing that nothing in this Act shall apply to cases of misdemeanors which may be punishable with death.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland:* That a new section be and is hereby added to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1924 Edition), title "Crimes and Punishments," sub-title "Jurisdiction, Procedure and Sentence," to follow immediately after Section 549 and to be designated as Section 549a of said Article, said new section to provide for the filing of Criminal Informations by the State's Attorneys of the various counties of the State and of the City of Baltimore, in cases where defendants, charged with a misdemeanor or misdemeanors, make known their desire to enter a plea of guilty to such charge, and eliminating the necessity of having an indictment returned by the Grand Jury in such case or cases, and providing that nothing in the Act shall apply to cases of misdemeanors which may be punishable with death, and to read as follows:

549A. That whenever hereafter in any County of this State, or in the City of Baltimore, any person is charged with the commission of any misdemeanor or misdemeanors, and such person, before indictment by the Grand Jury of said County or City of Baltimore, makes known his desire to enter a plea of guilty to such charge or charges in the Circuit Court of the County or in the Criminal Court of the City of Baltimore, wherever the said crime is alleged to have occurred, no indictment or indictments charging such offense or offenses shall be necessary to be returned by the Grand Jury of the said County or City of Baltimore; but the State's Attorney of said County or City of Baltimore may prepare a Criminal Information or Informations setting forth the charge or charges, and the defendant shall have the right to enter a plea of guilty thereon and the Circuit Court of the Counties and the Criminal Court of Baltimore City, having jurisdiction thereof, shall thereupon proceed to hear any evidence desired by the said Court and shall pass judgment for the offense or offenses in the said case or cases.

Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed as to relate to or change the proceedings in cases of misdemeanor which may be punishable with death and