

## CHAPTER 100.

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments, Section 179 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1929 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments," sub-title "Fraud—Upon Gas Companies, and Damaging, Interfering, or Tampering With the Property of Such Companies," so as to provide penalties for wrongfully and maliciously damaging, interfering, or tampering with the property of such companies.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 179 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1929 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments," sub-title "Fraud—Upon Gas Companies, and Damaging, Interfering, or Tampering With the Property of Such Companies," be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, so as to read as follows:

179. Any person who shall wrongfully and maliciously damage, connect, disconnect, tap, interfere or tamper with any mains, pipes, connections, valves, holders, machinery, manufacturing apparatus, appliances or appurtenances belonging to any company using or engaged in the manufacture and/or supply of gas for light, heat and power or either of them, or any person who, with intent to injure or defraud any gas company, body corporate of this State, shall make, or cause to be made, any pipe, tube or other instrument or contrivance, or connect the same, or cause it to be connected, with any main service pipe or other pipe for conducting or supplying gas, in such manner as to connect with and be calculated to supply gas to any burner or orifice by or at which gas is consumed, around or without passing through the meter provided for the measuring and registering of the quantity of gas there consumed, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars, or both, in the discretion of the court. The existence of any pipe or tube connection or other instrument or contrivance, as aforesaid, permitting the use of gas furnished by any gas company, body corporate of this State, without it being measured or registered on a meter provided therefor by such gas company, shall be prima facie evidence of intent to violate and of the violation of this section by the person or persons who