

of certain facts or conditions indicating that gas or electricity has been used without being registered on a meter, shall be prima facie evidence of intent to violate and of the violation of said section.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 179 and 180 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Edition of 1924, title "Crimes and Punishment," sub-title "Fraud—Upon Gas Companies," be and the same are hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, and Section 106 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Edition of 1924, title "Crimes and Punishment," sub-title "Destroying Property Maliciously," be, and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments as Section 180-A of Article 27 with the sub-title "Fraud Upon Electric Companies, and Damaging, Interfering, or Tampering with the Property of Such Companies," and to read as follows:

179. 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 would receive the direct benefits from the use of the gas without it being measured or registered on a meter as aforesaid.

180. Any person, who with intent to injure or defraud any gas company, body corporate of this State, shall wilfully