

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That two new sections be added to Article 13 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, title "Harford County," sub-title "Circuit Court," said new sections to follow section 177 of said Article, to be known as Sections 177 A and 177 B, and to read as follows:

Sec. 177 A. The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Harford County shall not docket suit or issue process in any action-at-law until the person or corporation seeking to docket said proceeding shall first pay to said Clerk Two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$2.50) to defray the Clerk's costs for the docketing of said proceeding and Seventy-Five Cents (\$.75) additional for each Defendant named in said proceeding to be paid to the Sheriff of Harford County for his services in serving the Writ of Summons on the Defendant or Defendants named therein.

If the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall docket any proceeding on the law side thereof without first complying with the provisions of this Act, he shall forfeit and pay to said Court the amount of costs due as a result of said failure upon his part.

Sec. 177 B. Any person entitled to commence an action-at-law in the Circuit Court for Harford County, may, upon the Order of said Court, commence said action without being required to prepay the costs mentioned in Section 177 A, upon filing in said Court a statement under oath in writing, that because of his poverty he is unable to pay the said costs, and that he believes that he is entitled to the redress he seeks in such action-at-law, and setting forth briefly the nature of his alleged cause of action; provided, however, that any willful false swearing in any oath or affidavit under the provisions of this section shall be punishable as perjury under the provisions of the criminal law now or hereafter in force in Maryland.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and being passed upon a yea and nay vote, supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved May 17, 1935.