

and to require a statement under oath by any surety or sureties to regulate the said Justices of the Peace and the Police Justice in the acceptance of sureties on bonds in criminal cases in Prince George's County; and to provide for penalties and convictions in violation of such regulations and limitations; to prohibit the division of any premium charge or payment of any part of any premium charge among sureties, Justices of the Peace or Constables, or with each other or one another; and to prescribe the penalties for such violations; and for disqualification of sureties for making any division or payment of any part thereof of the premium charged or compensation paid to Justices of the Peace or Constables or any other person or persons.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That before any person or persons shall be accepted by any Justice of the Peace or the Police Justice of Prince George's County as a surety or sureties on any bond or bonds in any criminal case before them or any of them, such person or persons so offering themselves as surety or sureties shall make oath as follows:

(1) That said surety or sureties own real estate, and the same is located in the State of Maryland; and what the true assessment of the same is, as evidenced by the assessment books showing the last assessment of said real estate in the jurisdiction where said property is located; and said last assessment as aforesaid for the purpose of said suretyship, shall be taken and considered by said Justice of the Peace or said Police Justice, as the case may be, the true value of said property.

(2) The amount of encumbrances, if any, on said property; that is to say, the total amount of mortgages, if any; the total amount of judgment, if any; the total amount of mechanic liens, if any; and the total amount of recognizances forfeited absolute, if any; and the aggregate of any such lien shall be added together and the total shall be deducted from said assessed value as aforesaid, and the remainder shall be considered the true equity value of said property for the purpose of suretyship, and the same may be pledged for suretyship to the extent, and only to the extent, of four times said equity value, inclusive of the amount for which said surety or sureties then offer themselves and their property. Should said real estate of said surety or sureties be unencumbered then said property may be pledged to the extent of four times the said assessed value obtained as aforesaid, inclusive of the amount for which