

incorporated or organized, and approved by the proper official thereof and having authority therefor, in an amount not less than that required of companies doing the same class or classes of business by the laws of this State to be deposited with the Treasurer of this State, and furnish this Department with a certificate to this effect, and such certificate shall be renewed annually.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1945.

Approved April 5, 1945.

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CHAPTER 556.

(House Bill 130)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 89 and 95 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1943 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "Desertion of Wife or Child", providing that in Frederick, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, Harford and Montgomery Counties the Trial Magistrates shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court to try persons violating the provisions of said sub-title.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Sections 89 and 95 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1943 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "Desertion of Wife or Child", be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

89. Any person who shall without just cause desert or willfully neglect to provide for the support and maintenance of his wife or minor child shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction in any court of the State having criminal jurisdiction shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, or imprisonment in the Maryland House of Correction, or in Jail, for not more than three years, or both, in the discretion of the Court. The fine may be directed by the Court to be paid in whole or in part to the wife; provided, that before the trial with the consent of the defendant, or after conviction, instead of imposing the punishment hereinbefore provided, or in addition thereto, the Court in its discretion, having regard to the circumstances and financial ability of the defendant, shall have the power to pass an order