

shall have the right to file a Petition and Suggestion, signed by him in proper person, with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of said County, setting forth that there is a criminal charge pending against him, that it is a misdemeanor or felony as the case may be under the law of the State of Maryland, or a political subdivision thereof, and that he wishes to waive his right to an indictment by the grand jury and that he seeks an immediate trial by the petit jury, or the Court sitting as a jury, without regard to terms of Court, upon a criminal information filed by the State's Attorney of said County setting forth the charge or charges against him; which petition and suggestion may be signed by the person accused in his proper person or by counsel.

In the event the said accused person shall have elected a jury trial or shall have taken an appeal from a conviction before a Trial Magistrate under the provisions of Section 13 of Article 52 of the Public General Laws of Maryland (1943 Supplement), the said Petition and Suggestion shall set forth said facts and shall ask for an immediate trial by the petit jury, or the Court sitting as a jury, without regard to terms of Court.

Upon the filing of said Petition and Suggestion, the State's Attorney shall forthwith file a criminal Information against said accused person, which shall be sufficient in form if it clearly apprizes the accused of the crime or crimes with which he is charged; the defendant shall then be arraigned and shall plead to the Information in the same manner as to an indictment and the case shall be set for trial, without regard to terms of Court, under the direction and control of the Court within a reasonable time after the filing of said Information with the view of giving the accused his right to a speedy trial.

The Court may at any time before or during the trial, and before final judgment, permit amendment of the Information, including the name of the offender; provided, however, that such amendment shall not change the character of the crime with which the accused is charged.

The State's Attorney shall have the same power to summons witnesses to his office on a day certain for the purpose of obtaining evidence to prepare said Information as he now possesses to summons witnesses to appear before the grand jury. Refusal to obey any such summons shall be reported in writing to the Circuit Court which shall have the power to punish said refusal by issuance of a bench warrant for contempt.

Provided, however, that nothing in this Section shall change or affect the jurisdiction of Trial Magistrates, or Police Justices, to hear, try, and determine cases in which