

ment are conveniently available for such service. All magistrates in office on January 1, 1960, shall continue in office, and be eligible for reappointment.

100A.

(a) For the purpose of hearing cases within the jurisdiction provided for in Section 6(k), the trial magistrates of Harford County shall be and they are designated as the People's Court of Harford County.

(b) The People's Court of Harford County shall have concurrent original jurisdiction at law in all civil cases arising in Harford County, including all cases for the enforcement of contracts, to obtain redress for wrongs, in actions of replevin and attachments as provided in Article 9 of this Code, where the debt or damages claimed or the amount in controversy does not exceed the amount specified in Section 6(k) of this Article, and cases between landlord and tenant arising under Article 53 of this Code and all civil cases arising in Harford County over which justices of the peace or trial magistrates had jurisdiction prior to January 1, 1960.

(c) All trials of cases before the Court shall be conducted in such manner as to do substantial justice between the parties according to the rules of substantive law, the equity and right of the matter, and without regard to technical rules of practice, procedure or pleading.

(d) A majority of the magistrates of said Court, with the approval of the Judge of the Circuit Court of Harford County resident therein, is authorized to prescribe by general rules the practice and procedure in said Court including, but not limited to, provision for registered or certified mail service, return days, trial days, practice in suits against nonresidents, attachments, replevins, joint tort-feasors, counter-claims, cross-claims, consolidations, continuances, depositions, dismissals, arbitrations, set-offs, appeal bonds, summary judgments, judgments by default, judgments by confession, supplementary proceedings, new trial and such other matters not inconsistent with law.

(e) Any statutory reference to trial magistrates shall be interpreted as meaning the magistrates of the People's Court of Harford County, including laws controlling fees, costs, and appeals, but not limited thereto. In lieu of the statutory schedule of fees the magistrates of the People's Court, with the approval of the Judge of the Circuit Court resident in Harford County, may adopt a schedule of fees and costs in all cases filed in said Court.

(f) Clerical assistance shall be appointed by a majority of said magistrates, subject to the approval of expenses and compensation by the County Commissioners of Harford County. The dockets of the People's Court shall be kept current and shall be public records.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 1960.

Approved March 3, 1959.