

Maryland), title "Harford County," to follow immediately after Section 461 thereof, and to be under the new subtitle "Public Defender," and all to read as follows:

*Public Defender*

461A.

*The Office of Public Defender is hereby established in Harford County. The public defender shall be appointed by the judges of the Circuit Court for Harford County and shall serve at their will.*

461B.

*To be eligible for appointment to the office of Public Defender, a person shall have been admitted to practice law before the Court of Appeals of Maryland for at least one year prior to his appointment and shall have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the appointing authority that he possesses the necessary skills and legal qualifications to discharge the responsibilities of the Office of Public Defender properly, adequately, and vigorously in defending indigents charged with crimes.*

461C.

*The public defender shall perform the following duties:*

*Upon request of a defendant and upon order of the court, he shall defend, at all stages of the proceedings, without expense to the defendant, any person who is not financially able to employ counsel and who is charged with the commission of any contempt of offense triable in the Circuit Court for Harford County. The public defender shall, upon request, give counsel and advice to such person about any charge against him upon which the public defender is conducting the defense, and shall prosecute all appeals to a higher court or courts of any person who has been convicted, where, in his opinion, the appeal will or might reasonably be expected to result in the reversal or modification of the judgment of conviction.*

461D.

*The Board of County Commissioners of Harford County may provide such secretarial assistance and room for the use of the public defender, and such office furniture and supplies as may be necessary to properly conduct the business of his office. Such expenses shall be a charge on Harford County.*

461E.

*The expense of printing briefs on appeal on behalf of a defendant represented by a public defender shall be a charge to the State of Maryland.*

461F.

*The public defender shall keep a record of all services rendered by him in the exercise of his office and shall file an annual report with the Board of County Commissioners of Harford County.*