

CHAPTER 276

(House Bill 690)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 99 of Article 52 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume and 1966 Cumulative Supplement), title "Justices of the Peace," subtitle "Trial Magistrates System," granting the judges of People's Court for Prince George's County the power and authority to issue writs of subpoena duces tecum, habeas corpus ad prosequendum, and habeas corpus ad testificandum.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 99 of Article 52 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume and 1966 Cumulative Supplement), title "Justices of the Peace," subtitle "Trial Magistrates System," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

99.

The judges of the People's Court of Montgomery County, except the People's Court judge for juvenile causes, and the judges of the People's Court of Prince George's County and the judges of the People's Court of Harford County, shall have all the authority, powers, civil, criminal and juvenile jurisdiction (except the judges of the People's Court of Harford County and Prince George's County shall not have juvenile jurisdiction), in the whole of said counties, heretofore vested in the justices of the peace designated as trial magistrates and other justices of the peace of said counties; provided the authority, powers and jurisdiction heretofore, or as may hereafter be vested in said other justices of the peace shall be unaffected by this provision.

In addition to the powers above enumerated, and not in derogation or limitation thereof, the judges of the people's court shall have the following powers:

(a) To suspend or reduce sentence and/or costs in any case within their jurisdiction within ten days in Montgomery County and thirty days in Prince George's County and Harford County after judgment has been pronounced, provided, however, that the court shall not be authorized to reduce the fine for any criminal or traffic offense below the minimum fine prescribed by law for such offense, and provided further, that nothing herein shall be construed to affect the power of the court to suspend any such fine entirely and provided that the judges of the People's Court of Prince George's County shall have after the expiration of such period as to sentences imposed revisory power and control in the case of fraud, mistake or irregularity.

(b) To regulate by rules the administration, procedure and practice of said court, such rules to have the force of law until rescinded or modified by the said judges or the General Assembly, provided, however, that no formal pleadings shall be required in any case before the said court, and provided further, however, that counterclaims and/or setoffs shall be permitted in all civil cases.

In Prince George's County, the judges of the People's Court shall have the power, in addition to power otherwise enumerated in this