

~~2. Commits any other act or offense against an investigating committee, which, if committed against the General Assembly or either house thereof, would constitute a contempt.~~

(b) An investigating committee may, by majority vote of all of its members, apply to the General Assembly or the house thereof by which it was established for a contempt citation. The application may be considered as though the alleged contempt had been committed in or against such house or the General Assembly itself. If the investigating committee is an interim committee, its application shall be made to the circuit court for any county or any judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

76. Penalties.

(a) A person found guilty of contempt under the provisions of Section 75 of this subtitle, in addition to any penalty imposed by the court, shall be subject to such other punishment as the General Assembly or the appropriate house thereof may impose in the exercise of its inherent powers.

(b) If any investigating committee fails in any material respect to comply with the requirements of this subtitle, any person subject to a subpoena who is prejudiced by such failure shall be relieved of any requirement of compliance. Such failure shall be a complete defense in any proceeding against such person for contempt or other punishment.

(c) Any person who violates Section 73 (g) of this subtitle shall be subject to a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both. The State's Attorney, on his own motion, or on the application of any person claiming to have been injured or prejudiced by an unauthorized disclosure may institute proceedings for the trial of the issue and imposition of the penalties provided herein. Nothing in this subsection shall limit any power which the General Assembly or either house thereof may have to discipline a member or employee or to impose a penalty in the absence of action by a State's Attorney or the court.

77. Limitations of Code.

Nothing contained in this subtitle shall be construed to limit or prohibit the acquisition of evidence or information by an investigating committee by any lawful means not provided for herein.

SEC. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT IF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ACT OR THE APPLICATION THEREOF TO ANY PERSON OR CIRCUMSTANCE IS HELD INVALID FOR ANY REASON, SUCH INVALIDITY SHALL NOT AFFECT THE OTHER PROVISIONS OR ANY OTHER APPLICATION OF THIS ACT WHICH CAN BE GIVEN EFFECT WITHOUT THE INVALID PROVISION OR APPLICATION, AND TO THIS END ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT ARE HEREBY DECLARED TO BE SEVERABLE.

SEC. 2. 3. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1968.

Approved May 7, 1968.