

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 30 of Article 5 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume), title "Appeals," subtitle "Appeals From Justices of the Peace," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

30.

Any party may appeal to the circuit court for the county from any judgment of a justice of the peace or trial magistrate of the county in any civil [or motor vehicle] cause and the defendant may appeal to the circuit court for the county from any conviction or sentence, including the suspension of sentence, in any cause. Such appeal may be taken at any time within thirty days from the date of said judgment if the cause is civil, and within ten days if the cause is criminal or deals with a violation of any motor vehicle law. The court to which such appeal is taken shall hear the case de novo and determine the same according to law and the equity and right of the matter. This section shall be construed to include all actions of debt for the collection of fines, penalties and forfeitures imposed by any law of the State or by any ordinance of any incorporated city or town of the State, and which are made recoverable before a justice of the peace, in which a right of appeal may not be given by the law imposing same; and this section shall also be construed to include all causes of any kind or nature triable before any justice of the peace.

If an appeal is taken from a conviction imposing a fine or other monetary penalty in a criminal case, the trial magistrate shall transmit the fine, costs or other monetary penalty so levied to the clerk of the circuit court to which said appeal is taken. In the event of acquittal or of the levy of a fine (including costs) by the circuit court in a sum less than that levied by the magistrate, the entire fine or the surplus held by the clerk in excess of the fine levied by the circuit court, as the case may be, shall be returned to the defendant. All fines levied by the circuit court hereunder shall be paid by the said clerk to the county commissioners as provided in this section. In the event of a dismissal of an appeal by the defendant before trial in the circuit court, the clerk shall pay the fine, costs, or other monetary penalty so deposited with him to the county commissioners as hereinabove provided.

In the event an appeal is taken from a conviction for a violation of the motor vehicle laws, the trial magistrate shall transmit the fine, costs, or other monetary penalty levied in such case to the clerk of the circuit court to which said appeal is taken. In the event of acquittal or the levy of a fine (including costs) by the circuit court in a sum less than that levied by the magistrate, the entire fine or the surplus held by the clerk in excess of the fine levied by the circuit court, as the case may be, shall be returned to the defendant. All fines levied by the circuit court for motor vehicle violations shall be paid by the clerk of the circuit court to the Department of Motor Vehicles. In the event of the dismissal of an appeal by the defendant before trial in the circuit court the said clerk shall pay the fine, costs, or other monetary penalty so deposited with him to the Department of Motor Vehicles.