

*guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 139 of this Article.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1971.*

Approved April 29, 1971

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CHAPTER 212

(House Bill 466)

AN ACT to add new Section 591 to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume and 1970 Cumulative Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "Venue, Procedure and Sentence," subheading "Procedure," to follow immediately after Section 590 thereof, requiring a pre-trial conference to be convened by a judge of any court where a criminal matter is pending; requiring the attendance of a representative of the State's Attorney's office and counsel for the accused at such conference; providing for the establishment at the conference of dates and time limits for pretrial motions, hearings and the trial of the criminal matter THAT A JUDGE OR OTHER OFFICIAL OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OR THE CRIMINAL COURT OF BALTIMORE CITY WHERE A CRIMINAL MATTER IS PENDING ESTABLISH A TRIAL DATE FOR THE TRIAL OF A CRIMINAL MATTER WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE ARRAIGNMENT OF AN ACCUSED OR WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE APPOINTMENT OR APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL; providing that the Judges of the Court of Appeals are authorized to promulgate additional rules to implement this Section; and relating generally to the scheduling of criminal causes.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That new Section 591 be and it is hereby added to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume and 1970 Cumulative Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "Venue, Procedure and Sentence," subheading "Procedure," to follow immediately after Section 590 thereof, and to read as follows:*

591.

*(a) Within two weeks after the arraignment of a person accused of a criminal offense, or within two weeks after the filing of an appearance of counsel or the appointment of counsel for an accused in any criminal matter, whichever shall occur first, a pre-trial conference shall be convened by a judge of the court in which the matter is pending. The conference shall be attended by a judge of the court, a representative of the State's Attorney's office and counsel for the accused, which conference may be held in court or in chambers. At the conference, the judge shall: establish dates or time limits for the filing of all pretrial motions by both the State and the accused; set dates or time limits for responses to all motions; schedule, where necessary, dates for hearings on any motions; and set a date for the trial of the matter. The dates or time limits to be established for all*