

CHAPTER 437
(Senate Bill 656)

AN ACT to add new Section 120 to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume AND 1971 SUPPLEMENT), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Birds, Game and Inland Water Fish," subheading "Department of Game and Inland Fish," TO FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER SECTION 119 THEREOF, authorizing police officers of the Department of Natural Resources to issue citations for violations of laws required to be enforced by the Secretary of Natural Resources, providing generally for such citations and for penalties for failing to appear in court in response to a citation, THEREFOR.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 120 be and it is hereby added to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland, (1970 REPLACEMENT VOLUME AND 1971 SUPPLEMENT), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Birds, Game and Inland Water Fish," subheading, "Department of Game and Inland Fish," to follow immediately after Section 119 thereof and to read as follows:

120.

(a) *Whenever a person is apprehended by a police officer of the Department of Natural Resources for violation of any law required to be enforced by the Secretary of Natural Resources or by the Department of Natural Resources or its employees, the officer shall prepare and sign a written citation containing a notice to appear in Court, the name and address of the person charged, appropriate license numbers, if any, the offense charged, the time and place the person shall appear in Court, and such other pertinent information as may be required by the Secretary of Natural Resources.*

(b) *The person charged may give his written promise to appear in Court by signing the citation prepared by the officer, in which event the officer is not required to take the person in physical custody for the violation should the officer believe the person charged will appear in Court when required to do so.*

(c) *It shall be unlawful for any person to violate his written promise to appear in Court unless sufficient collateral for the offense has been posted, the fine has been paid in advance of trial, or the person is represented by counsel in court.*

(d) *Any person convicted before any court for violating any of the provisions of this section shall be fined not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$100.00, or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both such fine and imprisonment.*

(e) *Forfeiture of bail or collateral deposit to secure a Defendant's appearance in Court, unless vacated in this State, shall constitute a plea of guilty, upon which a final conviction may be entered.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1972.

Approved May 26, 1972.