

CHAPTER 305
(House Bill 776)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 145(b) (9) of Article 26 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Courts," subtitle "District Courts," to provide that an alcoholic charged with a criminal offense be committed to a hospital or institution for treatment and observation subject to discharge by order of the Superintendent or medical staff upon reaching maximum improvement.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 145(b) (9) of Article 26 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Courts," subtitle "District Courts," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

145.

(b) (9) Every District Court judge shall have the power and authority to commit persons suffering from acute or chronic alcoholism or who are habitually addicted to narcotic drugs, to one of the State hospitals for evaluation, treatment and observation under such terms and conditions as he may determine. [, and every] *However, as to a defendant suffering from acute or chronic alcoholism, the commitment shall be for not less than 96 hours or for more than six weeks. The Superintendent of the hospital or other facility may terminate the commitment at any time after 96 hours upon his determination that further continued commitment will not be in the best interests of the alcoholic or serve any useful purpose. Every District Court shall be held to be included within the term "court" as used in Article 59, subtitle "Insanity as a Defense in Criminal Cases" of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1957 Edition, as amended; and each judge of the District Court shall have the same power and authority exercised by any judge of the circuit court for the purposes set forth in those sections, including the determination of competency to stand trial of any person charged with the commission of any crime within the jurisdiction of the court.*

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

Approved May 5, 1972.

CHAPTER 306
(House Bill 799)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 198 of Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume) title "Licenses," subtitle "Dog Licenses in the Counties," relating generally to compensation for livestock killed by dogs in Washington County, amending obsolete references to trial magistrates, and clarifying the language therein.