

(c) A merchant or an agent or employee of the merchant who detains or causes the arrest of any person shall not be held civilly liable for detention, slander, malicious prosecution, false imprisonment, or false arrest of the person detained or arrested, whether the detention or arrest takes place by the merchant or by his agent or employee, if in detaining or in causing the arrest of the person, the merchant or the agent or employee of the merchant had at the time of the detention or arrest probable cause to believe that the person committed the crime of shoplifting as defined in this section.

(d) Every person convicted of the crime of shoplifting to the value of \$100 or upwards, or as accessory before the fact, is guilty of a felony and shall restore any goods, or things taken, to the owner or shall pay him their full value, and shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or be imprisoned in the penitentiary for not more than three years. If any person is convicted of the crime of shoplifting under the value of \$100 he is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall restore the goods and chattels taken, or pay their full value to the owner thereof, and be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned for not more than 18 months in the house of correction or jail, or both fined and imprisoned. In Baltimore City, where the value of the thing stolen does not exceed \$500, the Municipal Court of Baltimore City has jurisdiction to try persons charged with violating this section. Persons convicted in the Municipal Court shall not be sentenced to the penitentiary by that court.

(e) If any part, section, paragraph, clause, sentence, or provision of this section shall be held invalid for any reason, the remainder of this section, or other applications thereof, shall not be affected thereby, and to this end, the provisions of this section are declared severable.

(f) This section is declared to be in addition to any other criminal provisions heretofore existing in this State.

(g) All laws, or parts of laws, inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

(h) Nothing in this section shall affect any cause of action which has accrued prior to June 1, 1961.]

[Taxicabs]

[555.

Any person who engages and accepts transportation in a public taxicab or other vehicle operated as a common carrier, under any conditions whereby the charge therefor is not paid in advance, and who wilfully refuses to pay the proper charges at the conclusion of such transportation, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction