

558.

It shall be the duty of all police officers and detectives in Baltimore City to arrest and take before a commissioner of the District Court all persons whom they shall find in Baltimore City or upon any train, boat, car or other vehicle commonly used for the transportation of passengers which may be bound to or from Baltimore City who they shall know or have good reason to believe are common thieves or pickpockets, and the commissioner shall commit or bail such persons according to law or rule of court for trial before the District Court; and if any person in Baltimore City shall be charged on oath before any commissioner or judge of the District Court with being a common thief or pickpocket, the commissioner or judge shall issue a criminal summons or warrant for the arrest of such person and commit or bail him for trial; and any person convicted of being a common thief or common pickpocket shall be fined not exceeding one thousand dollars or imprisoned in jail or in the house of correction or in the penitentiary for a period not exceeding five years, or be both fined and imprisoned within the limits above prescribed in the discretion of the court; but if any person is arrested or indicted a second time or more for such offense, he shall be convicted only on proof that he has continued to be a common thief or pickpocket since his last conviction or acquittal, and it shall be necessary to charge in the indictment only that the person is a common thief or common pickpocket, and any evidence, either of facts or reputation, proving that such person is habitually and by practice a thief or pickpocket, shall be sufficient for his conviction if satisfactorily establishing the fact to the court or jury by whom he is tried, and there shall be no discretion in any police officer or commissioner of the District Court to discharge or release any person who is by such proof before them or knowledge on their part shown to be a thief or pickpocket as aforesaid, but such person shall be bailed or committed according to law or rule of court for trial; and no conviction or charge of or for being a common thief or pickpocket shall prevent any such person from being tried and convicted for any particular theft he may have committed.

559.

If any person shall be arrested at any place on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, or on the line of the Northern Central Railroad, or on the line of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, or the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, or the Western Maryland Railroad, or any other railroad running out of Baltimore City, or in any of the cars or depots, or at any of the stations on said roads, or on any ferryboat employed to carry passengers over any part of said roads and within the limits of this State, charged with being a common thief or pickpocket, such person may be taken before any commissioner of the District Court in the county in which said place, or depot or station may be situated; or if such person be arrested in any car or on any ferryboat, before any commissioner in the nearest convenient county or in Baltimore City; and the commissioner shall on proof as provided in § 558 of this article commit or bail such person according to law or rule of court for trial before the District Court; and all police officers of Baltimore City, and all conductors of trains and police employed by any of said railway companies, and all bailiffs of any county or city on the lines of said roads shall arrest all such persons at any of the places aforesaid on the same knowledge and proof of their being common thieves or pickpockets as provided in § 558, and the said commissioner shall commit or bail such persons according to law or rule of court on the