

CHAPTER 458.

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 5, 10 and 12 of Article 12 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Edition of 1924, title "Bastardy and Fornication," to prescribe alternative penalties or punishments in bastardy proceedings.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, that Sections 5, 10 and 12 of Article 12 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Edition of 1924, title "Bastardy and Fornication", be, and the same are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, so as to read as follows:

5. Immediately upon the passage of said order, said justice of the peace shall transmit the original papers and a transcript of the proceedings had before him to said Circuit Court or the Criminal Court of the City of Baltimore, as the case may be, and thereupon, but not before the said woman shall have been delivered, the same proceedings shall be had as in other criminal cases, and if the accused person shall be found guilty by the verdict of the jury, or by the Court, if the case be tried before the Court, the Court shall immediately order such person to give bond to the State of Maryland in a penalty not exceeding \$500, with good and sufficient securities, conditioned to pay for the maintenance and support of said child, to the mother, or to the person having said child in custody, or to the county or to the City of Baltimore, as the case may be, if said child be a public charge, until said child reaches the age of fourteen years, or during the life of such child if said child shall die before reaching the age of fourteen years, such sum, accounting, in the discretion of the Court, from the date of birth of the child, not exceeding \$15 per month, as the Court shall by order direct, due regard being had to the circumstances of such accused person, and further to pay the whole or such part of the expenses incurred by the said mother during her confinement as the Court may direct, and to pay the reasonable funeral expenses of said child if he or she shall die under the age of fourteen years, and in default of such bond he shall be committed to jail or the House of Correction until said bond be given, but not exceeding two years; provided, however, that instead of imposing the punishment hereinbefore provided, the Court, in its discretion, having regard to the circumstances and financial ability of the accused person, shall have the power to pass an order which shall be subject to change by it from time to time, as the circumstances may require, directing the accused person to pay to the mother, or to the person having said child in custody, or to the County or to the City