

CHAPTER 630.

(House Bill 449)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 388 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "Larceny", extending jurisdiction to justices of the peace in Baltimore City to try cases of theft of goods under the value of twenty-five dollars; and providing a saving clause for violations occurring prior to the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Section 388 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "Larceny", be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

388. If any person shall steal, take or carry away personal goods of another under the value of twenty-five dollars and being thereof convicted he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall restore the goods and chattels so stolen or pay the full value thereof to the owner thereof, and be fined not more than fifty dollars or imprisoned for not more than eighteen months in the House of Correction or jail, or both fined and imprisoned; provided that all actions or prosecutions hereunder shall be commenced within two years after the commission of said offense.

All prosecutions for violations of the provisions of this section may be either upon presentment and indictment in any court having criminal jurisdiction in this State, or by trial before any justice of the peace in and for the county or the City of Baltimore, as the case may be, where the offense occurs, and jurisdiction original and concurrent with the said courts having criminal jurisdiction is hereby given to the said justices of the peace, and they shall have power to issue all processes and do all acts which may be necessary for the exercise of said jurisdiction; and may try and determine all such cases and may pronounce judgment and impose sentence therein to the same extent as the aforesaid courts having criminal jurisdiction could do in such cases, if such cases were tried before such court without a jury; provided, however, that if any person when brought before any such justice having jurisdiction of the case, shall, before the trial for the alleged offense, pray a jury trial, or if the State's Attorney for the county where the offense occurs shall, before the trial of such alleged offense, pray a jury trial on behalf of the State, it shall be the duty of such justice to commit such