

pursuant to Section 330 of this article and the cost of paying the principal and interest on bonds issued to pay the cost of capital improvements for the Department of Maryland State Police and the Department of Motor Vehicles of Maryland when such capital improvements are authorized by the Board of Public Works of Maryland, shall hold the balance of said monies in a special fund hereby created and known as the Motor Vehicle Revenue Fund, said fund to be thereafter held and distributed in accordance with the provisions applicable to said fund contained in Article 89B of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1961.

Approved April 24, 1961.

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CHAPTER 269

(Senate Bill 75)

AN ACT to add a new Section 551A to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), ~~AND 1961~~ 1960 SUPPLEMENT), title "Crimes and Punishments", to follow immediately after Section 551 thereof and to be under the new sub-title "Shoplifting", providing a criminal statute for offenses herein defined as "shoplifting", and relating generally to the offense of shoplifting and other penalties therefor in this State.

WHEREAS, Merchants in Maryland are now suffering great financial loss at the hands of shoplifters, and

WHEREAS, the retail and wholesale merchants have been handicapped in the apprehension and prosecution of shoplifters, by the difficulty of identifying and prosecuting shoplifting under existing common law and statutory crimes, and also by the application of the common-law rules relating to false arrest, false imprisonment, and wrongful detention, and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of the Legislature that wholesale and retail merchants should be allowed to detain persons whose actions give rise to a reasonable belief that such persons are engaged in the crime of shoplifting, as defined herein, for a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner, in order to ascertain the facts involved; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That a new Section 551A be and it is hereby added to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), ~~AND 1961~~ 1960 SUPPLEMENT), title "Crimes and Punishments", to follow immediately after Section 551 thereof, and to be under the new sub-title "Shoplifting", and to read as follows:

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.