

No. 217

AN ACT

SB 1241

Making it unlawful for district attorneys to stand aside jurors in empanelling any jury in the trial of any indictment charging a felony or a misdemeanor in any court of this Commonwealth, and regulating the challenging of jurors by the Commonwealth and the defendant in such cases.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. From and after the passage of this act it shall be unlawful for any district attorney of any county in this Commonwealth, in empanelling any jury for the trial, in any court, of any indictment or information charging a felony or a misdemeanor, to stand aside jurors, but in every case the Commonwealth and the defendant shall, in addition to the challenges for cause now allowed, be entitled to peremptory challenges as follows: In all trials for misdemeanors, the Commonwealth and the defendant shall each be entitled to five peremptory challenges; in all trials for noncapital felonies, the Commonwealth and the defendant shall each be entitled to seven peremptory challenges; and in all trials for capital felonies, the Commonwealth and the defendant shall each be entitled to twenty peremptory challenges.

Section 2. The act of March 6, 1901 (P.L.16, No.11), entitled "An act making it unlawful for district attorneys to stand aside jurors in empanelling any jury in the trial of any indictment charging a felony or a misdemeanor in any court of this Commonwealth, and regulating the challenging of jurors by the Commonwealth and the defendant in such cases," is hereby repealed.

Section 3. This act shall take effect in 90 days.

APPROVED—The 7th day of October, A. D. 1976.

MILTON J. SHAPP