

Preamble.

steamers under the command of the said military, and carried away from the service of said owners by said military, so that their service was totally lost to said owners, and very few of the said loyal owners have ever received any compensation for slave volunteers so enlisted or for service so lost ; and whereas, by the twenty-fourth Article of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution of this State, which went into full operation on the first day of November, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, all persons held to service or labor as slaves in this State were thereby declared to be free ; and whereas, no compensation for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such changes of system has been made by giving to this State pecuniary aid according to the faith of the Federal Government solemnly pledged by the joint resolutions aforesaid ; and whereas, the General Assembly of Maryland by joint resolutions passed at this present session has resolved that the State of Maryland has a good, valid and just claim upon the Government of the United States for reasonable and adequate compensation for the said property, and that it ought not to be doubted that the Federal Government, when the passions excited by the late unhappy civil war shall have subsided, will recognize the justice of the said claims and faithfully perform her manifest duty in regard to it, and further, that the General Assembly ought to provide by law for the taking and perpetuating the evidence of the number and value of the persons held to labor and service as aforesaid, by the loyal citizens of Maryland, and so as aforesaid, discharged from such service and labor : therefore

Governor to  
appoint Com-  
missioners of  
Slave Statis-  
tics.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and previous to the adjournment of the present session, shall appoint one person of suitable character and ability, resident in each county of the State, and one in Baltimore city, who shall be styled a Commissioner of slave statistics, and who before entering upon the discharge of his duties hereinafter described, shall give bond in the sum of five thousand dollars to be approved by the Clerk of the Circuit