

SEC. 6. *And be it enacted*, That no free negro or mulatto shall be suffered to keep or carry a firelock of any kind, any military weapon, or any powder or lead, without first obtaining a license from the court of the county or corporation in which he resides ; which license shall be annually renewed, and be at any time withdrawn by an order of said court, or any judge thereof ; and any free negro or mulatto who shall disregard this provision, shall, on conviction thereof before a justice of the peace, for the first offence pay the cost of prosecution, and forfeit all such arms to the use of the informer ; and for the second or any subsequent offence shall, in addition to such costs and forfeiture, be punished with stripes, at the discretion of the justice, not exceeding thirty-nine ; or be subject to the penalties of felony.

Negroes
forbid to
have fire-
locks, &c.
Without
license.

License
revokable.

Penalty.

Stripes.

SEC. 7. *And be it enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for any free negro or negroes, slave or slaves, to assemble or attend any meetings for religious purposes, unless conducted by a white licensed or ordained preacher or some respectable white person or persons of the neighbourhood, as may be duly authorized by such licensed or ordained preacher, during the continuance of such meeting ; and if any such meeting shall be held without being conducted as aforesaid, they shall be considered as unlawful and tumultuous meetings, and it shall be the duty of the nearest constable, or any other civil officer knowing of such meetings, either from his own knowledge or the information of others, to repair to such meeting, and disperse the said negroes or slaves ; and if any such constable shall fail to comply with the provisions of this act, he shall be subject to a fine of not less than five nor more than twenty dollars, at the discretion of a justice of the peace of the county in which he resides, whose duty it shall be to impose the fine, on information being given of such neglect ; and return the proceedings and judgment on the same to the clerk of the county, who shall enter it upon the proper docket to be collected and applied as other fines and forfeitures now are ; *Provided*, that this act shall not interfere with any right of an owner or employer of any slave or slaves, to allow his own servants or those employed by him or her, to have prayers or other religious service upon his own land ; *And provided also*, that nothing contained in this act shall be construed to prevent the assemblage, within the limits of Baltimore city and Annapolis city, of such slaves, or free negroes and mulattoes for the purpose of religious worship, if said meetings are held in compliance with the written permission of a white licensed ordained preacher, and dismissed before ten o'clock at night.

Religious
meetings of
negroes for-
bid without
&c.

Except at-
tendance,
&c.

Such meet-
ings deemed
unlawful.

Duty of
constables,
&c. to dis-
perse them.
Incur
penalty for
neglecting.

Magistrate
duty to in-
flict the
penalty.

Return pro-
ceedings.

Provido.

Further ex-
ception—
Baltimore
and Anna-
polis.

SEC. 8. *And be it enacted*, That all free negroes or mulattoes who shall be found associating, or in any company with slaves, at any unlawful or tumultuous meeting, either by day or night,

Free ne-
groes found
associating
in such un-