

the examination of the witnesses, and the hearing of the argument, cannot be concluded on the usual day of their meeting, upon which said examination of witnesses, or said argument, shall have commenced.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That so much of the act to regulate the meetings of the orphans court of Anne Arundel county, passed at December session, eighteen hundred and thirty-one, chapter two hundred and forty-eight, as may be inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be, and the same is hereby repealed. Repeal.

PATROL.

AN ACT to establish a Patrol in Saint Mary's, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Charles Counties.—1820, ch. 200.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That from and after the passage of this law, it shall and may be lawful for any justices of the peace for Saint Mary's, Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Charles counties, upon application by three or more judicious persons, to issue a requisition for as many inhabitants now subject to militia duty, as they may think necessary, not exceeding fifteen in any one company, to be denominated a patrol, the said justices of the peace to appoint two discreet persons of the said patrol, under whose direction they shall proceed to make diligent search through the said neighbourhood or district, as prescribed in the authority, for a period of not less than four hours, nor more than eight hours, and to disperse all unlawful and riotous assemblages of coloured persons, and to apprehend and seize all negroes and slaves, or persons of colour, whom they may have reason to suspect have unlawfully absented themselves from home, or have illegally emigrated from another state, or are in any manner violating the laws of this state. Two justices may issue requisition for patrol, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the said patrol, or as many of them as is necessary, as soon as convenient, to take all persons whom they may apprehend as aforesaid, before some justice of the peace for the county, for examination, and if upon a full investigation and inquiry the said justice shall be of opinion that such person has runaway from the service of his master, or has illegally emigrated to this state, or has in any manner violated the laws of this state, it shall be the duty of said justice to commit such person to the county jail, to be dealt with according to law. Duty of patrol.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That if said patrol have reason to suspect that any runaway negro slave, or person of colour, is concealed or harboured in any dwelling or out-house of any coloured person, within their search, it shall be the duty of such patrol to demand of the owner or occupant of such house If there is reason to suspect any runaway to be concealed in any