

## CHAPTER 96.

AN ACT relating to runaway Servants and Slaves.

See 1796, ch. 67, and the notes thereto, where all the modifications of this system are presented, ante page 334.

Sheriffs to advertise runaway slaves taken up.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That it shall be the duty of the sheriffs of the several counties of this state, and they are hereby respectively required and directed, upon any runaway servant or slave being committed to his custody, to cause the same to be advertised in some public newspaper or papers printed in the city of Baltimore, the city of Washington, and the town of Easton, and in such other public manner as he shall think proper, within fifteen days after such commitment, and to make particular and minute description of the clothing, person and bodily marks, of such runaway.

If not applied for within sixty days thereafter, to sell them.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That if the owner or owners, or some person in his, her or their behalf, shall not apply for such runaway within the space of sixty days from the time of advertising as aforesaid, and pay, or secure to be paid, all such legal costs and charges as have accrued by reason of apprehending, imprisoning and advertising such servant or slave, it shall be the duty of such sheriff, and he is hereby required and directed, to proceed to sell such servant or slave, and immediately to give public notice by advertisements, to be set up at the court-house door and such other public places as he shall think proper, in the county where such servant or slave is in custody, of the time and place for sale of such servant or slave, by him to be appointed, not less than twenty days after the time limited as aforesaid has expired, and at such time and place shall proceed to sell and dispose of such servant or slave to the highest bidder.

By 1817, ch. 112, sec. 6, the sheriff, instead of selling the servant or slave as directed by the latter part of this section, is to carry him before a judge of the county or orphans court, who is to examine whether he be a slave or not, and if believed to be a slave, to remand him to prison, and cause notice to be given to the supposed owner. If after such remand, and within the time for which he may be remanded, no person applies for and proves title to such suspected runaway, the sheriff shall discharge him. But if the judge shall not believe such suspected runaway to be a slave, he shall order him to be released.

To return to levy court an account of expenses.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the sheriff shall, under the penalty of fifty dollars for every such offence, make out, on oath, and return to the justices of the levy court, at their next session after the sale of any servant or slave, an account, stating the time of the commitment, the time of sale, the name of the purchaser and terms of sale, and the expenses and costs of advertising, securing and keeping, and the amount for which such servant or slave has been sold, and out of the money arising from such sale to retain the amount of such costs and charges