

Respecting
children of
free negroes

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the said constables, and they are hereby directed to make diligent inquiry into the condition of the children of free negroes and mulattoes, and wherever they find the children of free negroes and mulattoes, the parents or protectors of whom have no visible means of supporting and clothing such children; and such children being at an age sufficient to be bound out as an apprentice; immediately to lodge such information with the orphans court, or some justice of the peace of his county or city, who shall cause such children to be brought before them or him, and proceed to bind them out as apprentices agreeably to the act for the better regulation of apprentices and its supplements.

Constables
oath.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That in addition to the oaths or affirmations heretofore required to be taken by constables, they shall take an oath or affirmation as follows, to wit: I, A. B. constable of ———, do swear or affirm as the case may be, that I will, to the best of my ability perform all the duties required of me by the act relating to negroes, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned, and the several supplements thereto, without favour, affection or partiality.

Exceptions.
Levy court
to make
provisions
for infirm.
(*disease,)

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted*, That nothing in this act contained, shall be construed to authorize any justice of the peace in this state, to apply the provisions of this act to free negroes or mulattoes, who from *decease*,* old age, or any other bodily infirmity are unable to support themselves by labour; and the levy courts in the several counties of this state, are hereby authorized and required to make such suitable provision for all such free negroes or mulattoes as in their judgment may be necessary for their support and maintenance.

CHAPTER 162.

AN ACT to provide for the public instruction of youth in Primary Schools throughout this State.

Office of
superinten-
dent.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That there shall be constituted and appointed by the governor and council, an officer to be known and distinguished as the superintendent of public instruction.

His duties.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the said superintendent to digest and prepare a plan or plans for the public instruction of youth throughout this state, for the organization, improvement and management of such system as may be adopted, and of such revenues as may from time to time, be assigned and appropriated to the general objects of the institution; to prepare and report estimates and expenditures of the said revenues; to superintend the collection thereof; to apportion the funds; to perform such duties in relation thereto, as may by law, be required of him; to give information to the legislature on all matters referred to him by either branch,