

called by the president of the United States, or ordered by congress, to be holden previous to such day, and after the expiration of the term of service of the said representatives, in which event the governor of Maryland shall, by proclamation, direct such election to be held on a day to be therein named by him.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That each and every of the existing provisions of the several election laws of this state, relative to the election of the representatives aforesaid, shall be, and are hereby declared to be, in full force and operation, except so far as relates to the time of holding the said election.

Laws declared in force.

#### CHAPTER 235.

AN ACT relating to Manumissions.

Other acts are, 1831, ch. 281; 1832, ch. 296; 1833, ch. 284.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That any deed or writing heretofore executed for the manumission of any slave or slaves, by the owner or owners of such slave or slaves, and which has been acknowledged and recorded in the manner directed by the existing laws at the time of the execution of such deed or writing of manumission, shall be valid and effectual in law to give freedom to any such slave or slaves, and their issue, and although such deed of manumission or writing as aforesaid, may not have been evidenced by two or more good and sufficient witnesses; *Provided only*, that such slave or slaves were not over the age of forty-five years, or under the age of ten years, at the time of the execution of said deed or writing, and have been in the enjoyment of their freedom for the space of seven years after the execution of such deed or writing.

Deeds of manumission heretofore executed, made valid.

Proviso.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That a copy of such deed of manumission or writing as aforesaid, taken from the record of the county, and duly attested under the seal of the court, shall at all times hereafter be deemed, to all intents and purposes, good and sufficient evidence of the execution of such deed or writing of manumission; *Provided always*, that notwithstanding such deed or writing of manumission, no slave shall be entitled to his or her freedom under the provisions of this act, who has been heretofore adjudged to be a slave by any court of law in this state; *Provided*, that nothing in this act shall be so construed as to affect or destroy the right of any person who, before the passage of this act, was a bona fide purchaser of any slave or slaves claiming his, her or their freedom, under such deeds of manumission; *And provided also*, that the provisions of this act shall not extend to the case of any negro or negroes, mulatto or mulattoes, whose right to freedom is now in litigation in any court of this state.

Copy of deed made sufficient evidence.

Provisos.