

## CHAPTER 392.

Passed May 31, 1853. AN ACT for the relief of William Bryan, late Sheriff of Anne Arundel county.

## Preamble.

WHEREAS, it is represented to this General Assembly by the petition of William Bryan, late sheriff of Anne Arundel county, that sometime in the month of December, in the year eighteen hundred and forty-nine, a negro man named George, the slave of a certain Catharine Gardiner, of Prince George's county, was committed to the jail of the county first aforesaid, and shortly after broke from and made his escape from the said jail, and that afterwards suit was instituted by the said Catharine Gardiner against the said William Bryan, sheriff as aforesaid, for the recovery of the value of the said slave, and judgment obtained against him in the circuit court of said county, for the supposed value of said slave; *And whereas*, it has been represented by the said William Bryan, that by reason of some legal technicality he was stopped from setting up the weakness and insecurity of the said jail, as a ground of defence in the said suit; *And whereas*, it is just and proper that the said William Bryan, should be reimbursed the said judgment, if the said negro made his escape from the said jail by reason of its weakness and insecurity, and not by his own or the neglect of his deputy; Therefore,

## Examination of witnesses.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the commissioners of Anne Arundel county be, and they are hereby authorised to examine upon oath all witnesses that may be brought before them, or such others that they may deem necessary to examine, in order to ascertain the condition of the jail of Anne Arundel county at the time of the escape of the negro slave aforesaid, and in making such examination they are hereby further authorised to call to their aid the State's attorney for said county; and if after such examination, they should be fully satisfied that the said negro slave escaped from the jail of the county aforesaid, by reason of the weakness and insecurity thereof, and not through the negligence and default of the said William Bryan, or his deputy, then the commissioners of the county aforesaid, be, and they are hereby authorised and required to levy upon the assessable property of said county, for the use of the said William Bryan, the amount of the judgment, exclusive of interest, and all costs of prosecution rendered against the said Bryan in the circuit court of the county aforesaid, on account of the escape of the said negro slave.

## Authority to levy.