

respective districts, on the first day of December, CHAP. 232. eighteen hundred and sixty, and the same day and month in every year thereafter, and adjourn from day to day, or to any named day, for the purpose of discharging the duties imposed by this act.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the said board of commissioners shall under their hands and seals, issue summons to be directed to one or more constables, as they may see fit, of their respective districts, whose duty it is hereby made to serve the same upon every free negro of all ages and sexes in said districts, and by virtue of which it shall be the duty of said constable to have said free negroes so summoned before the said board of commissioners at the time and place specified in said summons. Negroes to appear before commissioners.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of said board of commissioners to duly notify all said free negroes when brought before them, except such as shall be otherwise provided for in the subsequent sections, that unless they shall provide homes by hiring themselves to some industrious and respectable citizen, as hereafter provided, to labor and service by the year, they the said commissioners will expose said free negroes at public sale to the highest bidder for the term of one year. Notice given.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of said board of commissioners, after having given the aforesaid notice to expose at public sale to the highest bidder for the term of twelve months, all such free negroes who shall fail to produce before said commissioners on or before the first day of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and on or before the first day of January of every succeeding year, the note or bond of some respectable and worthy citizen, with security thereon, to be approved by the same, for the hired services of said negro or negroes for the term of twelve months, which said note or bond shall contain the stipulations of the parties, and shall be subject to suit as other notes or bonds are, before a justice of the peace, or the Circuit courts for Saint Mary's Calvert, Howard, Kent, Baltimore, Worcester, Somerset, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Prince George's and Charles counties, as may be required by the amount of consideration in said bond. Free negroes failing to produce note, as evidence of their having hired out, to be sold. Stipulations.