

CHAP. 232. SEC. 6. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of said board of commissioners to indenture to some citizen of the said counties, all free negroes from four to twelve years of age, said male free negroes to serve until they arrive at the age of twenty-one, and said females until they arrive at the age of thirty, the party giving bond to the State of Maryland for the good treatment and care of said free negroes.

Females—
their issues,
&c.

SEC. 7. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of said board of commissioners to require of the party to whom any female aforesaid, or any other female hired or bound under this act, may be bound, to provide for and support all existing or subsequent issues of said female during her term of indenture or hire, until they arrive at the period of four years of age, at which time it shall be the duty of said commissioners, to bind out the said issues, in the manner and for the period specified in the foregoing section; it being the intent of this act, that all free negroes, minors from the time of birth to the period of four years of age, shall be exempt from the hiring and binding provisions of the same; and it shall be the further duty of the said commissioners to allow the mother of such issues to select the individual to whom said issue shall be bound; *Provided*, said individual shall execute a bond with approved security to the State of Maryland, as before required.

Proviso.

Unfaithful
servants.

SEC. 8. *And be it enacted*, That in the event of any free negro hired or bound under this act, shall refuse to serve faithfully, the party to whom he or she may be bound for the full term of his or her indenture, either by absconding, secreting or running away from the service of said party, it shall be the duty of said board of commissioners on complaint of the party and proof of the same, by some reliable and disinterested person under oath, to expose the said hired or bound free negro, at public sale to the highest bidder, to be sold as a slave for life, the proceeds of which shall be paid by said board to the register of wills of Saint Mary's, Calvert, Howard, Kent and Baltimore counties, to be appropriated by him to the primary school fund.

Duty of com-
missioners re-
specting aged
free negroes.

SEC. 9. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the said board of commissioners to provide a fund for the support of such free negroes as