

CHAP. 279. same is not intended for the sole use and benefit of the person or persons applying for the same, under a penalty of fifty dollars, to be recovered as small debts out of court, one half to the use of the informer and the other half for the use of the county.

Judges to examine parties charged on oath, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That whenever any trader or retailer shall be brought before any judge or court under the provisions of the act passed March seventh, eighteen hundred and forty-two, chapter two hundred and seventy three, it shall be the duty of the judge or court in addition to the other duty imposed on him or them by said act, to examine by the oath of the party charged and any other competent witness, brought before him or them, whether the party charged was dealing on his own account or on account of any other person or persons, and if the said judge or court shall be satisfied that the said party has been dealing on account of any other person or persons, it shall be the duty of said judges or court to suspend the license of such person or persons until the end of the county court of said county, next succeeding said examination, and it shall be the duty of said judge or court to report the facts and circumstances to the next grand jury of the county, and refer them to the third section of the act of December session eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, chapter one hundred and seventeen.

On conviction of free negro, to be sold out of the state.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That if any free negro or mulatto or any slave shall be convicted in any court of this State of dealing in stolen goods, the said free negro or mulatto or slave shall be sold out of the State if free; for a term not more than ten, nor less than five years, and if a slave, for life, and the amount of sale of any free negro or mulatto shall go one half to the informer and the other half to the county in which the offence was committed, and if the party convicted be a slave the amount shall go to the master, unless it shall appear to the court that said slave has been guilty of so dealing with the knowledge of his master, in which case the amount of sale shall go one half to the informer, and the other half to the county, in which said offence was committed.

No free negro or mulatto to return to the state.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted*, That no free negro or mulatto convicted and sold out of the state under the provisions of this act, shall return to the state after the time for which he has been sold.