

CHAP. 281. shall be deemed guilty of felony, and upon indictment and conviction in any county court of this state or the city court of Baltimore as the case may be, shall be confined in the penitentiary for a term of not less than five years nor more than ten years; or if a free negro or mulatto, or free negroes or mulattoes, he, she or they shall be deemed guilty of felony, and upon indictment and conviction in any county court of this state or in the city court of Baltimore as the case may be; and upon conviction fined not less than fifty dollars, and if not paid, be sold for such term as may be adjudged equal to said fine, one half of which fine shall go to the informer and the other half to the state; and for the second offence shall be sold out of the state, and the proceeds, after deducting one half for the informer, shall be paid into the treasury of the state.

Penalty for
permitting so-
ciety to meet.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That if any person or persons owning or having charge of land, house, room or other place, shall knowingly suffer any masonic or other lodge or pretended lodge or secret society of negroes or mulattoes or secret society formed jointly of negroes and whites to assemble or meet therein or thereat, he, she or they, if white, shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars, or be confined in the penitentiary for a term of not less than five years, nor more than ten years, at the discretion of the court, and if said person or persons shall be a free negro or mulatto or free negroes or mulattoes, he, she or they shall be sold as a slave as provided in the first and second sections of this act.

Sheriff and
police officers
to disperse &
arrest.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of all persons, and especially all constables, sheriffs and other peace officers, to disperse any and all assemblages of negroes, whose proceedings and objects are not public, and to arrest such negroes or mulattoes as shall be found in such assemblage or assemblages, and the same to carry before some justice of the peace or judges of the county court and Howard District and city court of Baltimore, so that they may be committed to answer for a violation of the provisions of this act, and for a failure so to do, such constable, sheriff or other peace officer shall be subject to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars.

Constables,
to have power
to summon to
their aid per-
sons, &c.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted,* That for the more certain execution of the provisions of this act, all constables and other peace officers shall have full and ample power to summon to their aid such of the citizens of this state in their vicinage as in their judgment may be necessary to enable them to disperse the unlawful assemblages as aforesaid, and to arrest the parties engaged therein, so that they may be brought to trial, and any person who shall wilfully refuse to obey