

CHAP. 35.

CHAPTER 35.

Passed Mar. 20, 1840. *An act to provide for the better regulation of the Free Negro and Mulatto Children within this State.*

- Orphans courts
to summon, &c.
- To bind as ap-
prentices
- Judges to wit-
ness indenture
- Name and age
to be stated, &c.
- Want of form
not to invali-
date, &c.
- Authority to
transfer ap-
prentice
- Penalty for en-
ticing appren-
tice to runaway
- In case appren-
tice abscond
- SECTION 1.** *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That, from and after the passage of this act, the orphans' court of any county in this State, upon information being given to either of said courts, shall summon before them the child or children of any free negro or negroes or mulattoes in said county; and if it shall appear, upon examination before such court, that it would be better for the habits and comfort of such child or children, that it should be bound as an apprentice to some white person to learn to labor, then such court shall bind, as apprentices, such child or children to some white person, males till they are twenty-one years of age, and females till they are sixteen years of age; and the indenture of apprenticeship shall be witnessed by the judges of such court, or some two thereof; and shall state the name and age of the child bound, and the name of the master, and shall be recorded in the clerk's office of said county, at the expense of the master, within three calendar months after the making of the same; and any indenture under this act shall not be invalid for want of form, if it contains the name and age of the apprentice, the name of the master, and is witnessed by the court binding the same, or any two judges thereof.
- SEC. 2.** *And be it enacted,* That the master or the executor, administrator or assignee of such master may, with the assent of the orphans' court, to be entered on the minutes of said court, assign and transfer to any other person residing in the said county, any apprentice bound under this act.
- SEC. 3.** *And be it enacted,* That if any negro or other person shall entice or persuade any apprentice bound under this act, to run away or abscond from the service of the master or person entitled to his or her service under this act, such negro or other person so offending, shall, upon conviction in the county court, be subject to fine and imprisonment as for a misdemeanor, or at the discretion of the said court, be confined in the penitentiary house of this State for not more than four years, nor less than twelve months.
- SEC. 4.** *And be it enacted,* That if any apprentice, under this act, abscond or run away, the county court of said county shall have full power to adjudge and order