

CHAP. 356. Wilkins, Thomas Miller, Francis L. Wallis, Horatio Beck, John Spencer, George W. T. Perkins, Thomas C. Kennard, William S. Constable, John M. Comegys and William H. Blackiston, and their successors, and all other persons who may hereafter become members of the corporation to be created by this act, are hereby created and declared to be a body politic and corporate by the name, style and title of the Mutual Protection Society of Kent county, and by the same name shall have succession, and shall be able to sue and be sued, to implead and be impleaded, answer and defend, and be answered and defended in any and all courts of law or equity in this State or elsewhere; to have, make and use a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure, and shall have full power and authority mutually to protect and defend each other against loss of property in slaves by their being enticed away, or absconding from the service of their owners beyond the limits of the State of Maryland; to provide for the keeping and investment of any funds or assets that may become the property of the society, and generally to transact, execute and perform all such business as may appertain to a mutual protection society, not being contrary to this act or the constitution and laws of this State, or of the United States; *provided however*, that nothing in this act, shall be construed to grant any banking privileges to the said company, or the right to issue any note of the nature of a bank note.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of said society to keep a book containing a copy of this act and of the constitution and by-laws as may be established by said society, and that all persons who may wish to become members of the said society shall be required to subscribe their names thereto, which expression of consent, and the payment of such fees, charges or premiums as may be demanded by the proper officers of said society, shall constitute such persons members thereof; and as such, shall be bound by all the rules and regulations of said society as are contained in this act and in the constitution and by-laws of said society; and every person or persons whose slaves shall be insured by this society, shall become members thereof as already provided for.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That any member of the said society shall have full power and authority to withdraw therefrom at any time by applying to the proper officer thereof, and paying such fees or charges as may

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