

CHAPTER 155.

AN ACT relating to the punishment of persons under the age of fifteen and over twelve years who may be convicted of offences punishable in adults by confinement in the penitentiary. Passed Mar. 10, 1854.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all infants over twelve and under the age of fifteen years, who may be convicted of mayhem, murder in the second degree, manslaughter, assault with intent to commit murder or mayhem or of setting fire to any building tenement or property, the setting fire to which is punishable by confinement in the penitentiary in the case of adults, shall be sentenced to the penitentiary for the said crimes in the same manner as if they were of full age. Punishment:

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* 'That it shall be the duty of every court having criminal jurisdiction, to examine into the character of all infants convicted of offences other than those recited in the first section of this act, and punishable by confinement in the penitentiary and to exercise a sound discretion in determining, whether the said prisoner or traverser so convicted should be bound out in accordance with existing or future laws, or should be sentenced to the penitentiary in the same manner with adults convicted of like crimes, and to bind out, or sentence the said traverser or prisoner accordingly. Duty of court:

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That any court in this State having criminal jurisdiction may bind out to the managers of any house of refuge or other institutions under police regulations, within the limits of the said State, all infants over twelve and under the age of fifteen years, until they shall arrive at an age not less than eighteen nor more than twenty-one years, who shall be convicted of any offence punishable in adults by confinement in the penitentiary, other than those specified in the first section of this act. Courts may bind out.