

be, and are hereby authorised to issue executions, or other proceedings upon the judgments obtained before their respective predecessors as fully and to the same effect as though such judgments had been originally obtained before them; and that copies of all such judgments, or of any of the official papers appertaining to said dockets, given by them under their respective hands and seals, shall be as good evidence, and of the same use and effect in law as official copies of all papers of the like character would have been if given by the clerks of the Circuit Courts for said counties in case this law had not been enacted.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect from the day on which it may be passed.

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CHAPTER 87.

AN ACT to authorise the Orphans' Courts of Kent, Caroline, Somerset and Worcester counties and justices of the peace, binding out negro children, to regulate freedom dues to the apprentices, and secure a compensation to the parent or other persons for raising such children.

Passed Mar. 6, 1856.

WHEREAS, It is represented to this General Assembly, that the freedom dues to negro apprentices, are frequently insufficient, and that the children of free negroes are sometimes taken from their parents and bound out without any compensation being made for raising them, leaving the parents, oftentimes, in poverty and want; *And whereas*, the services of negro apprentices have become valuable to the Agriculturist and others, and it would seem just and equitable that compensation should, in certain cases, be made therefor; Therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That in all cases, where the Orphans' Courts of Kent, Caroline, Somerset and Worcester counties shall be called upon to bind out the children

Power to increase freedom dues.