## CHAPTER 161.

AN ACT to amend and explain an act relating to free negroes in Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties, passed at December session 1849, chapter 538.

*Passed Mar. 8, 1856.*

WHEREAS, many of the Farmers, and others, residing in the third election district in Kent and parts of Cecil county, are in the habit of and under the necessity of employing free negroes, on their farms and in other occupations; and whereas, the said act has been construed by many to prevent free negro servants from being sent out of the State, in the necessary business of the employer, to remedy which and to remove all grounds of apprehension.

*Preamble.*

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the said act of Assembly, shall not embrace in its prohibition, any free negroes in Kent or Cecil counties, who are employed by any farmer or farmers, or who hire by the month or year; *Provided,* that such free negroes, may be sent out of the State of Maryland, by his, or her, bona fide employer, or agent of said employers, on business of such employer, and for thus going out and returning to the State, shall not be liable to the penalties or punishment inflicted by the said act, or the act of December session 1839, chapter 38, or any other act imposing a penalty on free negroes leaving the State and returning thereto; *Provided,* that he or she shall not remain out of the State at any one time longer than ten days.

*Exempt from the provisions of act.*

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That this act shall take effect from its passage.

*In force.*