

erned and directed by the said commissioners, in reference to such special duties, and that the whole or part of the police force may be regulated by the county commissioners in regard to the times they shall perform duty or cease to perform it, if they shall think it expedient to exercise such power, notwithstanding former provisions of this act; that the said police shall arrest and secure, in the public jail, all absconding slaves; that they may arrest and punish by a reasonable number of stripes, all free negroes and slaves, who shall be found roaming about after ten o'clock at night, in spring, summer and autumn, and nine o'clock in winter, without a permit, or authority, a distance of five miles from their homes or places of residence, unless they shall be on proper business, and have a reasonable excuse, and to disperse and punish, as constables may now do, all tumultuous or disorderly assemblages of negroes, free or slaves; to seize and dispose of, as constables may do, all guns found in the possession of free negroes or slaves, contrary to law; to arrest and take before some Justice of the Peace, all persons, white or colored, found stealing, or committing any felony or misdemeanor, or who may be in possession of stolen property, or which they may have, under the circumstances, strong and probable reasons to believe may have been stolen or improperly or illegally obtained; to arrest and take before a Justice of the Peace, who may commit to jail, any free negroes found in company with absconding slaves, and all persons who may aid or assist such slaves to abscond, or who may advise, encourage and persuade, or entice such slaves to abscond; and that the county commissioners shall have power to fill from time to time, all vacancies in said special police, occasioned by death or removal from the county; and also to remove any members of said police for misbehavior, misconduct, neglect of duty, or incompetency, and to appoint others to fill the vacancies caused by such displacement.

Commissioners to levy annually.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That the county commissioners shall levy annually on the county, a sum of money sufficient to pay or compensate such police force, not exceeding the sum of one thousand dollars in any one year.

Compensation.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted*, That if any person or persons shall arrest and secure in the public jail of the county, so that a sale may be made, any runaway or absconding slave who may be leaving the service