

of his master with an intention to escape into another State, such person or persons shall be entitled to receive from the proceeds of sale of such slave, twenty per cent. of the nett amount, after defraying the ordinary or necessary expenses, if taken in the county; thirty per cent. if taken out of the county and in the State; and fifty per cent. if taken out of the State; such compensation shall be a lien on the arrested slave and have precedence to all mortgages, executions and incumbrance thereon, except a levy thereon for taxes and public dues.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted*, That in the event of any controversy arising between the owner or his agent or representative and the arrestor of such slave or slaves, whether the said slave or slaves was or were really absconding and running away, as described in the fourth section of this act, the Orphans' Court of the county shall, upon full hearing of both parties and an examination of the whole matter, decide, whether the said slave or slaves was or were absconding or running away in the meaning of this law, at the time of the arrest, and was bona fide arrested and secured as aforesaid, each party to have the privilege of process to compel attendance of witnesses, who shall be sworn in the usual manner, and such fees shall be paid to the register, sheriff or constable and witnesses, as is usually paid for similar services in the Circuit Court, and that either party may have the right of appeal to the next Circuit Court, which in a summary way shall, at the first court, if practicable, decide such appeal.

SEC. 6. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect from its passage.

In the event
of controversy.