

## CHAPTER 78.

Passed Mar. 6, 1856. AN ACT entitled an act to permit persons to whom free negroes or mulatto apprentices are bound in Worcester county, to hire them out.

Preamble. WHEREAS, Persons having free negro or mulatto apprentices in this State are permitted by the act of eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, chapter thirty-five, by the assent of the Orphans' Court, that the master, executor, administrator or assignee of such master, are empowered by that act to assign and transfer to any other person residing in the said county, any apprentice under this act; and whereas, persons sometimes wish to make a temporary change in their business, but do not wish to dispose of the whole time of service of said apprentice or apprentices; therefore,

Authority to hire out. SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all persons to whom free negroes or mulattoes are bound as apprentices, in Worcester county, shall have power and authority to hire out said apprentices; *Provided,* the master, or mistress, or owner of any free negro or mulatto apprentice shall first obtain an order from the Orphans' Court of said county granting him, her, or them liberty so to do.

Proviso.

Not less than one year.

Provisos.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That the Orphans' Court of Worcester county shall not permit or authorize the master, mistress or owner to hire out said apprentice for a shorter period than one year, unless the time of service of said apprentice should expire in a less time than one year, nor for the prosecution of any other trade or occupation than that to which they were first bound; *Provided however,* and it is the intention and meaning of this act, that the Orphans' Court of Worcester county shall have full power, if in their judgment the interest of said apprentice requires it, either on account of improper treatment, or failure, or neglect on the part of the hirer to give proper instruction to such apprentice in his trade or occupation, to direct and order the hirer of such apprentice to return to the master, mistress or owner, and to pass an order declaring the contract between the master, mistress, or owner and the hirer no longer to have effect: *Provided, however,* The said Orphan. Court may order such an amount of money to be

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