

CHAPTER 324.

AN ACT to modify the punishment of free negroes, convicted of Larceny and other crimes in this State.

Passed March 10, 1858.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That in all cases hereafter, where free negroes shall be convicted of the crime of simple larceny, to the value of five dollars and upwards, or as accessory thereto before the fact, they shall be sentenced to be sold at public sale as slaves for the period of not less than two nor more than five years. First, and every free negro who shall be convicted of robbery, may in the discretion of the court, be either sentenced to confinement in the penitentiary, as now provided by law, or be sold either within or beyond the limits of the State, as a slave for the period of ten years. Second, and if any free negro shall hereafter be convicted of feloniously stealing, taking or carrying away any horse, mare, colt or gelding, ass or mule, or being accessory thereto, before or after the fact, shall in the discretion of the court before whom he shall be convicted, be sentenced to be sold, either within or beyond the limits of the State, for a period not less than two nor more than fourteen years. Third, and every free negro who shall be hereafter convicted of wilfully and maliciously stabbing, killing, wounding or destroying any horse, mare, colt, gelding, ass or mule, not the property of such free negro, and not in the act of trespassing on his enclosures, shall be sentenced to be sold as a slave for a period of not less than two years, nor more than four years. Fourth, and every free negro who shall hereafter be convicted of stealing any vessel, out of any place within the borders of any county or on the Chesapeake bay, and within the jurisdiction of the State of Maryland, or of the crime of feloniously taking and carrying away any negro or other slave, or of the crime of counseling, hiring, aiding or abetting, any person or persons to commit either of said offences, or of the crime of being accessory thereto, shall be sentenced to be sold in the discretion of the court,

Free negroes convicted of crime how punished.