

SAMUEL SPRIGG, ESQUIRE, GOVERNOR.

1820.

Chesapeake bay, and for other purposes passed at November CHAP. 199.
session eighteen hundred and seven, be and the same is hereby
repealed.

CHAP. CC.

An Act to establish a Patrol in Saint Mary's, Anne-Arundel, Prince George's, Passed Feb 16 1821
and Charles Counties.

1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That ^{Two justices may issue requisition for patrol, &c} from and after the passage of this law, it shall and may be lawful for any justices of the peace for Saint Mary's, Anne-Arundel, Prince-George's and Charles counties, upon application by three or more judicious persons, to issue a requisition for as many inhabitants now subject to militia duty, as they may think necessary, not exceeding fifteen in any one company, to be denominated a patrol, the said justices of the peace to appoint two discreet persons of the said patrol, under whose direction they shall proceed to make diligent search through the said neighbourhood or district, as prescribed in the authority. for a period of not less than four hours, nor more than eight hours, and to disperse all unlawful and riotous assemblages of coloured persons, and to apprehend and seize all negroes and slaves, or persons of colour, whom they may have reason to suspect have unlawfully absented themselves from home, or have illegally emigrated from another state, or are in any manner violating the laws of this state.

2. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the said patrol, or as many of them as is necessary, as soon as convenient, to take all persons whom they may apprehend as aforesaid, before some justice of the peace for the county, for examination, and if upon a full investigation and inquiry the said justice shall be of opinion that such person has runaway from the service of his master, or has illegally emigrated to this state, or has in any manner violated the laws of this state, it shall be the duty of said justice to commit such person to the county jail, to be dealt with according to law. ^{Duty of patrol.}

3. *And be it enacted,* That if said patrol have reason to suspect that any runaway negro slave, or person of colour, is concealed or harboured in any dwelling or out house of any coloured person, within their search, it shall be the duty of such patrol to demand of the owner or occupant of such house to be admitted into the same, for the purpose of making search as aforesaid, and if the owner or occupant shall refuse to suffer such entry and search, it shall be lawful for such patrol, to use all necessary force to effect the same, and in any action of trespass, or other suit brought by any owner or occupant for any entry made in virtue of this act, the defendant shall, on the general issue plea, have liberty to give the special matter in evidence. ^{If there is reason to suspect an runaway to be concealed in an dwelling, &c to demand admittance, &c}

4. *And be it enacted,* That if any person named in such requisition or patrol, on being duly notified and summoned by such justice of the peace, or by their authority, shall neglect or refuse to obey the same, every such person so offending, shall be subject to pay a fine not exceeding five dollars, nor less than fifty cents, to be recovered as other small debts out of court now are, by warrant in the name of the state, and the money so arising to be applied to the use of the commissioners of the school fund. ^{Penalty for neglecting to obey requisition}