

ner the build and marks of such flatboat or vessel and the name of such person and place of his abode, copies of which advertisement the said party shall, within ten days after the date thereof, cause to be set up in the most public places of the county, and within thirty days after such date procure the same to be inserted in some daily newspaper published in the City of Baltimore.

§ 10. Proof of ownership.

Upon proof of property by the oath of the owner of such flatboat or other vessel, or otherwise, before a [justice of the peace] court, and upon payment of reasonable costs and charges for the same, the person so taking up and securing the same shall deliver the said flatboat or other vessel to the owner thereof.

§ 11. Penalty for noncompliance.

If any person shall take and secure any flatboat or other vessel driven from any place of mooring, landing or harbor, or from any other vessel, and shall fail to comply with the provisions of §§ 9 and 10, he shall forfeit [to the owner thereof] the sum of ten dollars, to be recovered as small debts before a [justice of the peace] court of competent jurisdiction of the county where the party charged may reside. *If the forfeiture is imposed by a circuit court for any county or the Criminal Court of Baltimore, it shall be recovered by the owner of the flatboat or other vessel.*

SECTION 35. *And be it further enacted,* That Sections 1, 4, 13C, 19, 20A, 35, 54, 55, 77, 78, 79, 80(a), and 80A of Article 35 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Evidence," subtitles "Competency of Witness," "Attendance and Pay of Witnesses," "Commissions to Take Evidence From Other States," and "Proof of Accounts," and "Public Statutes, Office Copies and Official Certificates," be and they are hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

§ 1. Competency of parties; not incapacitated for conviction of crime or interest in controversy; exception as to perjury; husbands and wives generally.

No person offered as a witness shall hereafter be excluded, by reason of incapacity from crime or interest, from giving evidence, either in person or by deposition, according to the practice of the courts, in the trial of any issue joined or hereafter to be joined, or of any matter or question, or on any inquiry arising in any suit, action or proceeding, civil or criminal, in any court, or before any judge, jury, [justice of the peace] or other person having, by law or by consent of parties, authority to hear, receive and examine evidence; but every person so offered may and shall be admitted to give evidence, notwithstanding that such person may or shall have an interest in the matter in question, or, in the event of the trial of any issue, matter, question or inquiry, or of the suit, action or proceeding in which he is offered as a witness, and notwithstanding that such person offered as a witness may have been previously convicted of any crime or offense; but no person who has been convicted of the crime of perjury shall be admitted to testify in any case or proceeding whatever; and the parties litigant and all persons in whose behalf any suit, action or other proceeding may be brought or defended, them-