

THE Sum of *Thirty Pounds* current Money, shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Western Shore to the foresaid Commissioner, as a Fund for paying the Takers up of such Runaways in the back Woods; and the said Commissioner is impowered to commit such Runaways, to the Custody of the Sheriffs of *Prince George* or *Baltimore* Counties, (unless he can secure the Reward for taking up, with the other Fees that may accrue, and conveniently send them to the Owners,) there to remain till the Master or Owner of such Slave or Slaves (to whom the Sheriff is to give speedy Notice if known,) shall make Satisfaction to the Sheriff, for the Sum of Money paid out of the publick Stock, with *Ten Shillings* current Money as a Fee allowed the Commissioner; all which Sums he shall immediately pay the Commissioner, and of all which Sums the Commissioner is yearly to render Account to the General Assembly, and shall be always under their Correction and Direction.

THE Sheriff is to give publick Notice to the Owner of such Slave or Slaves being in his Custody, conform to the Directions in the above original Act; and if not appearing, and paying all Charges, is to proceed to sell, as by said Act directed, paying out of the Price the said Reward for taking up, with the *Ten Shillings* Fee to the Commissioner, with his own Imprisonment Fees, being accountable to the Owner only for the Residue; and in case of a Suit at his Instance against him or the Purchaser, is impowered to plead the general Issue, giving this Act and special Matter in Evidence, and in the Event of a Nonsuit, Discontinuance or Verdict against the Plaintiff, shall have double Costs.

EVERY Runaway Negro, who shall be taken up, and brought in from the above Bounds in the back Woods, shall, for the first Offence, have one of his Ears cut off, and for the second Offence of the same Kind, shall have his other Ear cut off, and be branded on the Chin, with the Letter R. excepting always from the aforesaid Punishments, young Negro's not arrived at the Years of Discretion, and new Negro's for Twelve Months after their Arrival in the Country.

ACT directing the Payment of Fees, arising due on the Prosecution of white Servants, which shall be imported into the Province.

Passed October 7
10th, 1727.

IT shall and may be lawful for the severall and respective Officers within the Province, to whom any Fees shall arise due on any Prosecution against any Servants imported into the Province, to charge and recover the same from the Masters and Owners of such Servants, and it shall not be lawful for any Officers to charge the Publick therewith.

It shall and may be lawful to and for the Owners of such Servants, (unless the Offence is capital, and they are executed for the same,) at or before the Time of the Expiration of such Servants Servitude, to
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