

lawful for the county courts where the master, mistress, owner or owners of such slave or slaves shall reside, and they are hereby required upon the complaint or information of any credible person (being supported by oath or affirmation,) to cause such complaint, &c. to be minuted among their proceedings, and thereupon to issue their warrant to the sheriff of their county against such master, mistress, owner or owners of such slave or slaves, thereby to cause such master, &c. to appear before them at some day to be limited in such warrant; and if, on a due examination in a summary way, the said court shall be satisfied that such master, &c. have suffered such slave or slaves to depart and wander, or remain at large, contrary to the provisions and intention of this act, the said court are empowered and required to cause such master, &c. to enter into recognizance, with one sufficient security, if the same shall be awarded, in the penalty of 100 dollars, to be taken to and in the name of this state, and the condition of the said recognizance shall be such, that if such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, his, her or their executors or administrators, shall suffer such slave or slaves to depart and remain at large, contrary to the provisions of the act in such cases made and provided, then such recognizance shall remain in force and virtue; and if any such master, &c. shall afterwards commit any breach of the condition of such recognizance, it shall be lawful for any person to put in suit and prosecute such recognizance against the cognizor or cognizors thereof; and if the master, &c. bound by such recognizance, his, her or their executors or administrators, shall be convicted of any of the breaches assigned by verdict, confession or otherwise, the judgment of the court shall be rendered for the penalty and costs of suit, and the same may be recovered by any process of execution, and one third of the penalty shall be applied to the use of the prosecutor, and the remainder as a fund for the county school, if any, if not, to the county in which such conviction shall happen, and the name of the person prosecuting such recognizance shall be endorsed upon the original writ, and such person shall be answerable for the fees and costs; but if any slave or slaves shall run away or abscond from the service of their master, &c. contrary to the will of such master, &c. such running away and absconding shall not be construed, deemed or taken, to be a departing and remaining at large within the meaning of this act.—*ibid.* § 17.

59. In all cases where certificates from a clerk of any court, or from any judge or magistrate, have heretofore been granted, or may hereafter be granted, to free negroes or mulattoes; if such negro or mulatto shall hereafter give or sell such certificate to any slave, by which means such slave may be enabled to abscond from the service of his master or owner, and personate the grantee of such certificate, it shall be lawful for the master or owner of such slave to have remedy against such free negro in any court of law in this state, and the court before whom such free negro may be tried shall have authority, upon conviction by the verdict of