

Dec Ses 1817. entitled to freedom, then the court shall adjudge them free, and if said court shall adjudge them to be slaves for life, or for a term of years, and it shall appear that said slave or slaves shall have been purchased with intent to remove them from the state of Maryland, and no bill of sale for the same shall have been taken for such slave or slaves, or a false or fraudulent bill of sale, then the said court shall order such slave to be sold for the time such slave may have to serve, for the benefit of the county, or for the mayor and city council of Baltimore, if the aforesaid proceedings should be had in Baltimore city court; but if any slave or slaves, after a term of years, or upon any contingency, then the said servant or slave shall become immediately the right and property of the said person entitled to such reversion or remainder, in the same manner as if the event or time in which the reversion or remainder was to accrue had actually occurred; *Provided*, that the said person, so entitled to the reversion or remainder, shall pay the costs of the proceedings which may have been had in the case, otherwise the said servant or slave shall be sold for the use of the county, or the mayor and city council of Baltimore, for the time he or she may have been bound to serve the person who sold said servant or slave; *Provided*, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to the case of any citizen removing from the state of Maryland with his servants and slaves, provided such citizen shall have resided within the state one year next preceding such removal, or to any person travelling with his or her servants or slaves in or through the state not purchased with intent to export the same within the meaning of this act.

Proviso.

Runaway slaves, proceedings relative thereto.

6. *And be it enacted*, That hereafter when any servant or slave shall be committed to the gaol of any county in this state, as a runaway, agreeably to the laws now in force, and the notice required to be given by law by the sheriff shall have been given, and the time for their detention expired, and no person or persons shall have applied for and claimed said suspected runaway, and proved his, her, or their title to such suspected runaway, as is now required by law, it shall be the duty of the sheriff forthwith to carry such slave or slaves before some judge of the county court, or judge of the orphans court, with his commitment, and such judge is hereby required to examine and inquire, by such means as he may deem most advisable, whether such suspected runaway be a slave or not, and if he shall have reasonable grounds to believe that such suspected runaway is a slave, he may remand such suspected runaway to prison, to be confined for such further or additional time as he may judge right and proper; and if he shall have reason to believe that such suspected runaway is the slave of any particular person, he shall cause such notice to be given by the sheriff, to such supposed owner, as he may think most advisable, but if said judge shall not have reasonable ground to believe such suspected runaway to be a slave, he shall forthwith order such suspected runaway to be released; and if no person shall apply for such suspected runaway, after he may be so remanded, within the time for which he may be remanded, and prove his, her or their title as the law now requires, the said sheriff shall, at the expiration of such time, relieve and discharge such suspected runaway, and in either case when such suspected runaway shall be discharged, the expense of keeping