

first session after such new election, as the constitution and form of government directs, in such case this act, and the alterations of the constitution therein contained, shall constitute and be valid as a part of the said constitution and form of government, to all intents and purposes, any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Dec Ses. 1822

CHAPTER 85.

*An act to establish a Patrol in Calvert County.*Passed Jan
30, 1823
Patrol.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the passage of this law, it shall and may be lawful for any two or more justices of the peace for Calvert county, 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 neighborhood 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 are necessary, as soon as convenient, to take all persons whom they may apprehend as aforesaid before some justice of the peace for said county, to be dealt with according to law.

Duty.

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.

Searches.

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 paid over to the levy court for the use of said county.

Delinquents.

CHAPTER 86.

*An act for the benefit of the Commissioners of the tax for Baltimore County.*Passed Jan.
25, 1823.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the levy court of Baltimore county be, and they are hereby authorised and

Levy §112.