

CHAP. 296. her lawful owner, or possessor, or shall harbor any run-away slave or servant, knowing him or her to be such, then such person or persons shall be liable to indictment in the county court of the county where such offence shall have been committed, or in the city court of the city of Baltimore, or in the district court of Howard district, if such offence shall have been committed in the city of Baltimore, or Howard district, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to undergo a confinement in the penitentiary house for a period of time not less than six, nor more than fifteen years, there to be treated as the law directs.

If the offender be a slave

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That if any slave shall be duly convicted of any offence under the provisions of the first section of this act, such slave may, in the discretion of the court before whom such conviction shall be had, be sentenced to undergo a confinement in the penitentiary house, as is hereinbefore provided, or to receive on his or her bare back any number of lashes not exceeding forty.

Inconsistent acts repealed

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the act of December session eighteen hundred and forty-four, chapter eighty, the act of December session, eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, chapter fifteen, the second section of the act of December session, eighteen hundred and eighteen, chapter one hundred and fifty-seven, and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with any of the provisions of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed; *provided nevertheless,* that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or construed in any manner to hinder or prevent the indictment, conviction and punishment, of any person or persons, who at the time when this act will go into operation, shall have committed any offence punishable under any of the acts hereby entirely or partially repealed, but such person or persons shall be liable to be indicted, convicted and sentenced, at any time after the passage of this act, in the same manner, and for the same period or periods of confinement, as he, she or they, might or could have been, had the acts hereby repealed continued in full force and operation.

Proviso