

Dec. Ses 1817

of this state; and that the children of free negroes and mulattoes have been kidnapped from their masters, protectors and parents, and transported to distant places, and sold as slaves for life; to prevent therefore such heinous offences, and to punish them when committed,

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the publication of this act, no person shall sell or dispose of any servant or slave, who is or may be entitled to freedom after a term of years, or after any particular time, or upon any contingency, knowing the said servant or slave to be entitled to freedom as aforesaid, to any person who shall not be at the time of such sale a *bona fide* resident of this state, and who has not been a resident therein for the space of at least one year next preceding such sale, or to any person whomsoever who shall be procured, engaged or employed, to purchase servants or slaves for any other person not being resident as aforesaid, and if any person claiming, possessing, or being entitled to such servant or slave, shall sell or dispose of him or her to any person who is not a resident as aforesaid, knowing that such person is not a resident as aforesaid, or to any person who shall be procured, engaged or employed, to purchase servants or slaves for any other person not being so resident, knowing the person so buying or receiving such servant or slave to be so procured, engaged or employed, or who shall sell or dispose of such servant or slave for a longer term of years, or for a longer time than he or she is bound to serve, every such person making any such sale or disposition contrary to the meaning and intention of this act, shall be liable to indictment in the county court of the county where such seller or sellers shall reside, or sale be made, and on conviction shall be sentenced to undergo confinement in the penitentiary for a term not exceeding two years, according to the discretion of the court; and such servant or slave who may have been sold contrary to the provisions of this act, to any person who is not resident as aforesaid, or to any person who shall be procured, engaged or employed, to purchase servants or slaves for any other person not a resident as aforesaid, shall be sold by the order of the court for the time he or she may have to serve, for the benefit of the county where such conviction shall be had, or for the use of the mayor and city council of Baltimore if the conviction shall be had in Baltimore city court.

Slaves entitled to freedom not to be sold to any person not a resident of the state.

2. *And be it enacted,* That if any person who is not a *bona fide* resident of this state, and who has not resided therein for the space of at least one year next preceding such purchase, shall purchase or receive on any contract any such servant or slave, who is or may be entitled to freedom as aforesaid, knowing that such servant or slave is entitled to freedom as aforesaid, or if any person whomsoever who shall be procured, engaged or employed, to purchase servants or slaves for any other person not being resident as aforesaid, shall purchase or receive on any contract any such servant or slave entitled to freedom as aforesaid, knowing that such servant or slave is entitled to freedom as aforesaid, with an intention to transport such servant or slave out of the state, every such person making any such purchase or contract, contrary to the meaning of this act, shall be liable to be indicted in any county court in this state where he may be found, and on conviction shall undergo

Persons not residing in the state may be punished for purchasing any such slave.