

## **Appendix B.**

### **Selected New Jersey Laws related to Slavery and Free People of Color, 1682-1846.**

A Bill for the General Laws of the Province of East New Jersey, section XXVI, L&S 233, 237 (1682)

[§1] that every apprentice, or servant, that shall depart or absent themselves from their master or mistress, without leave first obtained, shall be adjudged by the court to double the time of such their absence by future service, besides all costs and damages, which the master or mistress shall have sustained by such unlawful departure. [§2] *Be it further enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that whosoever shall knowingly transport, or contrive the transportation of any apprentice, servant or slave, or be any aiding or assisting thereto, and be thereof lawfully convicted, shall be fined five pounds, and make full satisfaction to the master or mistress of such apprentice, servant or slave, for all costs and damages which the said master or mistress can make appear to have thereby sustained. [§3] *Be it further enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that every inhabitant who shall entertain, or afford any manner of relief to such apprentice, servant or slave, knowing that he hath absented himself as aforesaid, except of real charity, and thereof be lawfully convicted, shall pay to the master or mistress of such servant, ten shillings for every days entertainment and concealment, and be fined according to the discretion of the court (<http://njlegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A5.html>).

A Bill against fugitive Servants, and entertainers of them. East New Jersey Laws, March 1682, ch. IX, L&S 239

[§1] BE IT ENACTED by the Governor, Council, and Deputies in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, that every apprentice, or servant, that shall depart or absent themselves from their master or mistress, without leave first obtained, shall be adjudged by the court to double the time of such their absence by future service, besides all costs and damages, which the master or mistress shall have sustained by such unlawful departure. [§2] *Be it further enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that whosoever shall knowingly transport, or contrive the transportation of any apprentice, servant or slave, or be any aiding or assisting thereto, and be thereof lawfully convicted, shall be fined five pounds, and make full satisfaction to the master or mistress of such apprentice, servant or slave, for all costs and damages which the said master or mistress can make appear to have thereby sustained. [§3] *Be it further enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that every inhabitant who shall entertain, or afford any manner of relief to such apprentice, servant or slave, knowing that he hath absented himself as aforesaid, except of real charity, and thereof be lawfully convicted, shall pay to the master or mistress of such servant, ten shillings for every days entertainment and concealment, and be fined according to the discretion of the court (<http://njlegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A5.html>).

An Act against Trading with Negro Slaves. East New Jersey Laws, March-May 1682, ch.IV,  
L&S 254

[§1] WHEREAS it is found by daily experience, that negro and Indian slaves, or servants under pretence of trade, or liberty to traffick, do frequently steal from their masters and others what they expose to sale at distance from their habitations, and it being a known truth, that without a receiver the thief would soon desert his practice. *Be it therefore enacted* by the Governor, Council, and deputies in General Assembly met and assembled, and by the authority of the same, that all and every person or persons, being a planter or inhabitant within this Province, who shall at any time hereafter, buy, sell, barter, trade or traffique with any negro slave, or Indian slave, or servant, for any rum, brandy, wine or strong drink, or any other goods, wares or commodities, living or dead, within this Province of East New Jersey, shall pay for the first offence five pounds, and for the second and every other offence ten pounds, of the money of this Province, to be recovered by bill, plaint, indictment, information or otherwise, in any court of record within this Province; the one third, thereof to the use of the informer, the other third part thereof to the use of the government, the other third part to the publick treasury of the Province. [§2] *And be it enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that all and every person within this Province, in case any negro, or Indian slave, or servant, shall tender, bring or offer to sell, barter, or trade with or any matter or for thing to any person without permission or licence of his master or mistress, such negro slave, or servant, shall and may be taken up and be whiped by the person or persons to whom he shall tender such sale, and such person whiping such negro, or Indian slave, or servant, shall have the reward of half a crown paid him by the master or mistress of such negro, or Indian slave, or servant (<http://nilegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A6.html>).

## An Act concerning Slaves, &c. East New Jersey Laws, October 1694, ch.II, L&S 340-342

[§1] WHEREAS complaint is made by the inhabitants of this Province, that they are greatly injured by slaves having liberty to carry guns and dogs, into the woods and plantations, under pretence of guning, do kill swine. *Be it enacted* by the Governor, Council and Deputies in General Assembly met and assembled, and by the authority of the same, that no slave or slaves within this Province after publication hereof, be permitted to carry any gun or pistol, or take any dog with him or them into the woods, or plantations, upon any pretence whatsoever; unless his or their owner or owners, or a white man, by the order of his or their owner or owners, be with the said slave or slaves, upon the penalty of twenty shillings for the first offence, and for the second offence, thirty shillings, and so for every offence after so committed ten shillings more; the one half to the informer that shall prosecute the same to effect, the other half to the use of the poor belonging to the town where the fact was committed, to be recovered as an action of debt; forty shillings or under to be tryed at the court of small causes in the town where the fact was committed, and above forty shillings to be try'd by the county court where the fact was committed ; the said action to be commenced against the owner or owners, of the aforesaid slave or slaves so offending ; and after judgment obtained against the said owner or owners, execution to be levied upon their bodies or estates, for the satisfaction of the said penalty so recovered as aforesaid with cost. [§2] *And be it further enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that no person or persons within this Province, shall suffer his or their slave or slaves, to keep any swine, but what are of their owners mark, upon the penalty of twenty shillings for every swine otherwise marked ; to be recovered of the owner or owners of the said slave or slaves as aforesaid. And whereas it is found injurious to many of this Province having slaves, that their slaves are withheld by the countenance, harbouring and entertaining of them by many of the inhabitants thereof, without their owners consent. [§3] *Be it enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that any person or persons on whom it can be proved, that they do presume to suffer any slave to be or remain in his house, not licensed by his owner as aforesaid, by the space of two hours, shall forfeit the sum of five shillings, and so proportionably for a longer time, to the owner wrong'd thereby ; and that it shall be lawful for any person to apprehend and take up as a runaway, any slave that shall be found five miles from his owners habitation, or town of his abode, without a certificate for the same, and upon returning the said slave or slaves, to the said owner or owners, he or they so apprehending and returning as aforesaid, shall have paid them by the owner or owners of the said slave or slaves within ten miles distance, five shillings; if within twenty miles, and more than fifteen miles from the said owners habitation, ten shillings per head, and if further, than six-pence per mile more to be paid and recovered as aforesaid. [§4] *And be it further enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall lend, give or hire out to any slave, or slaves, pistol, gun or guns, the said person or persons so lending, giving, or hiring, shall forfeit the said pistol, gun or guns, or twenty shillings to the owner of the said slave or slaves, to be recovered as an action of debt as aforesaid (<http://njlegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A8.html>).

An Act concerning Negroes. East New Jersey Laws, February-March 1695, ch.III, L&S 356-357

[§1] BE IT ENACTED by the Governor, Council and representatives in General Assembly met and assembled and by the authority of the same, that when any negro, negroes, or other slaves, shall be taken into custody for felony or murder, or suspicion of felony or murder, that three justices of the peace, of that county where the fact is committed, one being of the quorum, shall with all conveniency meet and try the said slave or slaves, and upon conviction by a jury of twelve lawful men of the neighbourhood, pronounce the sentence appointed for such crimes, and sign the execution. [§2] *Be it further enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that if any negro, negroes, or other slaves shall steal, or be found stealing, any swine, or other cattle, turkeys, geese, or any other kind of poultry and provisions whatsoever, or any kind of grain, and shall be convicted thereof before two justices of the peace, one whereof being of the quorum, the master or mistress of such negroes, or other slaves, shall within ten days after conviction, pay the value of what he or they have stolen to the party from whom the same is stolen, and in default to be levied by distress and sale of goods, of the said master or mistress, by a warrant from the justices before whom such conviction is made directed to the constable of the town where the master or mistress resides: And the said negro or negroes or other slaves, being so convicted, shall be publickly punished with corporal punishment, not exceeding forty stripes, the master or mistress of such negro, negroes or other slaves, to pay the charge thereof.

<http://nilegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A9.html>).

An Act for Regulating Negro, Indian and Mallatto Slaves within this Province of *New-Jersey*. Dec.12, 1704, 2 *Bush* 28-30. Repealed by an order of Council, Oct.24,1709

[§1] Whereas it is found by daily Experience, that Negro, Indian and Mallatto Slaves, under pretence of Trade, or liberty of Traffick, do frequently steal from their Masters, Mistresses or others, what they expose to sale at a distance from their Habitations; and it being a known truth. That without a Receiver, the Thief would soon desert his Practice, *Be it therefore Enacted by the Governour, Council and Assembly now met and assembled, and by the Authority of the same*, That all and every Person or Persons inhabiting within this Province, who shall at any time after publication hereof buy, sell, barter, trade or traffick with any Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slaves, for any Rume, Wine, Beer, Syder, or other strong Drink, or any other Chattels, Goods, Wares or Commodities whatsoever within this Province of *Nova-Cesaria* or *New-Jersey*, shall pay for the first Offence *Five Pounds*, and for the second, and every other Offence, *Ten Pounds* current Money of this Province, the one half to the Informer, the other half to the use of the Poor of that place where the fact is committed. To be recovered by Action of Debt in any of her Majesties Courts of Record within this Province where the fact shall arise.

[§2] *And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That all and every person or persons within this Province who shall find or take up any Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slaves ten Miles from his or her Master or Mistresses Habitation, who hath not leave in writing from his or her said Master or Mistress, he, she or they so taken up shall or may be whipt, by the party that takes them up, on the bare back, not exceeding twenty Lashes; and the taker up shall have for his Reward the Sum of *Five Shillings* for every one so taken up, with reasonable Charges of carrying home, paid him by the Master or Mistress of the said Slave; and if further, then *six Pence per Mile* for every Mile over and above the said ten Miles; to be recovered by Action of Debt of *Forty Shillings* or under, before any Justice of the Peace; if above 40s. then before the Court of Common Pleas of the County where the fact shall arise.

[§3] *And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That if any Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slaves of or belonging to any other Province, without License under the hand of his or her Master or Mistress, shall be taken up by any person within this Province, he, she or they so taken up shall be whipt at the publick Whipping-post belonging to the place where the said Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slaves shall be taken up, not exceeding twenty Lashes on the bare back, and to be committed by a Warrant from a Justice of the Peace where the Fact shall arise, to the Goal of that County; and the person so taking them up, and carrying them to be whipt, shall have for his Reward the Sum of *Ten Shillings* for each Slave, paid by the Mr. or Mrs. of the said Slaves, and to remain in Prison till it be paid, with all other Charges that shall accrew thereby.

[§4] *And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That when any Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slaves shall be taken into Custody for Fellony or Murder, or suspicion of Fellony or Murder, that three of the Justices of the Peace of that County where the Fact is committed (one being of the *Quorum*) shall with all conveniency meet and try the said Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slaves, and upon Conviction by a Jury of twelve lawful Men of the Neighbourhood, Pronounce Sentence for such Crimes, and sign the Execution

[§5] *And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That if any Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slave shall steal to the value of *six Pence*, or above, and under the Sum of *five Shillings*, and be thereof convicted before two Justices of the Peace, one whereof to be of *Quorum*, upon the Oath or solemn Affirmation of

one or more Witnesses, such Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slave shall be whipt on the bare Back, at the publick Whipping-place, with Forty Lashes by the Constable of such Township or place where the Offence was committed, or such Person as he shall appoint. And that if any Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slave shall steal to the value of *five Shillings*, or above, and under the Sum of *Forty Shillings*, and be thereof convicted in manner as aforesaid, such Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slave shall be whipt on the bare back with Forty Stripes, as aforesaid, and be likewise burnt with a hot Iron on the most visible part of the left Cheek near the Nose, with the Letter (T) by the Constable, as aforesaid; the which Constable shall receive for whipping of each Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slave *five Shillings*, and for burning each Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slave *Ten Shillings*, to be paid by the Master or Mistress of the said Slave; and in default of payment to be levied by Warrant from any Justice of the Peace out of the goods of the said Master or Mistress; and that every Constable that shall neglect or refuse to do his Duty herein shall forfeit the Sum of *Forty Shillings*, to be levied by Warrant of any Justice of the Peace, directed to whom he shall appoint, out of the Goods and Chattels of the said Constable.

And if any Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slave shall attempt by force or perswasion to Ravish or have carnal Knowledge of any White Woman, Maid or Child, and be thereof convicted by the Verdict of twelve Men of the Neighbourhood before two Justices of the Peace, one whereof to be of the *Quorum*, such Indian, Negro or Mallatto shall be Castrated at the care and Charge of his Master or Mistress, and the Negro to continue in Goal at the charge of his Mr. or Mrs. till Execution be performed.

[§6] And whereas the *Baptizing of Slaves* is thought by some to be a sufficient Reason to set them at Liberty; which being a groundless Opinion, and prejudicial to the Inhabitants of this Province, *Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That the Baptizing of any Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slave, shall not be any reason or cause for setting them, or any of them at Liberty; nor shall they nor any of them have or procure their or any of their Liberty by virtue thereof.

[§7] *And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That all the Children that have been or shall be born in the Country of such Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slave as have been formerly, or may hereafter be set at Liberty, and all their Posterity shall be and are hereby forever after rendered incapable of purchasing or inheriting any Lands & Tenements within this Province.

[§8] *And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That any Person or Persons within this Province, who shall knowingly keep or entertain any Negro, Indian or Mallatto Slave in his or their House, or otherwise, for above the space of two hours, without their Mr. or Mrs leave, or some other reasonable cause or occasion, shall forfeit the sum of *One Shilling* for each hour, to the Mr. or Mrs. of such Slave, to be recovered before any one of her Majesties Justices of the Peace, in manner aforesaid; and if above 40s. then before the Court of Common Pleas, as aforesaid (<http://njlegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A11.html>).



## An Act for Regulating of Slaves. Mar.11, 1713/14, 2 Bush 136-140

[§1] *Be it Enacted by the Governour, Council and General Assembly, and by the Authority of the same,* That all and every Person or Persons within this Province, who shall at any time after Publication hereof, buy, sell, barter, trade or traffick with any *Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave*, for any Rum, Wine, Beer, Syder, or other strong Drink, or any other Chattels, Goods, Wares or Commodities whatsoever, unless it be by the consent of his, her or their Master or Mistress, or the person under whose care they are, shall pay for the first Offence *Twenty Shillings*, and for the second and every other Offence, *forty Shillings*, Money according to the Queens Proclamation, the one half to the Informer, the other half to the use of the Poor of that Place where the Fact is committed, to be recovered by Action of Debt before any one of Her Majesties Justices of the Peace.

[§2] *And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That all and every Person or Persons within this Province, who shall find or take up any *Negro, Indian or Mullato Slave or Slaves*, five Miles from his, her or their Master or Mistresses habitation, who hath not leave in writing from his, her or their Master or Mistress, or are not known to be on their service, he, she or they, so taken up, shall be Whipt by the party that takes them up, or by his order, on the bare back, not exceeding Twenty Lashes; and the Taker up shall have for his reward Five Shillings, Money aforesaid, for every one taken up as aforesaid, with reasonable Charges for carrying him, her or them home, paid him by the Master or Mistress of the Slave or Slaves so taken up; and if above the said five Miles, *six pence per Mile* for every Mile over and above, to be recovered before any one Justice of the Peace, if it exceeds not Forty Shillings, and if more, by Action of Debt in the Court of Common Pleas in the County where the fact shall arise.

[§3] *And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That if any *Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slaves*, of or belonging to any other Province shall come into this Province without Liscence under the Hand of his, her or their Master or Mistress, or that is not known to be upon his or her business, every such *Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave* shall be taken up by any Person within this Province and be whipt by the nearest Constable of the Place where the said Slave shall be taken up, not exceeding Twenty lashes on the bare back, and to be committed by a Warrant from the next Justice of the Peace to the Goal of that County, and the Person so taking them up and carrying them to be whipt, shall have for his reward *Ten Shillings*, Money aforesaid, for each Slave, and the Constable *Three Shillings* for whipping each Slave, to be paid by the Master or Mistress of such Slave or Slaves, and to remain in Prison till it be paid, with all reasonable Charges that may accrue thereby.

[§4] *Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That all and every *Negro, Indian or other Slave*, who after the Publication of this Act shall Murder, or otherways kill (unless by Misadventure, or in Execution of justice) or conspire, or attempt the Death of any of Her Majesties Leige People, not being Slaves, or shall commit any Rape on any of the said Subjects, or shall willfully burn any Dwelling House, Barn, Stable, Out-House, Stack or stacks of Corn or Hay, or shall willfully Mutilate, Mayhem or Dismember any of the said Subjects, not being Slaves, as aforesaid, or shall willfully Murder any *Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave* within this Province, and thereof be convicted before three or more of Her Majesties Justices of the Peace, one whereof being of the *Quorum* who are hereby required and impowred to hear and determine the same, in conjunction with five of the Principal Free-holders of the County wherein such Fact shall be committed, without a Grand-Jury, Seven of whom agreeing, shall give Judgment and Sign the Execution, according to this Act, and he, she or they so offending shall suffer the Pains of Death in such manner as the Aggravation or Enormity of their Crimes (in the judgment of the Justices and Free-holders aforesaid) shall merit and require.

[§5] *Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That upon Complaint made to any one Justice of the Peace against any Indian, Negro or Mullatto Slave or Slaves, who have or are supposed to have committed any of the Murders, Rapes, Mayhems, &c. mentioned in this Act, the said Justice shall immediately issue out his Warrant to the next Constable, to apprehend the said Offender or Offenders, and for all or any Person or Persons to come before him that can give Evidence, and if upon Examination it appears that the Person or Persons are Guilty, he shall commit him or them to Prison, and also shall Certify to the two next Justices the said cause, and to require them, by Virtue of this Act, to associate themselves to him, which the said Justices are hereby required to do, and they so associated are to issue their Summons to five Freeholders, acquainting them with the cause, and appointing them the time and Place the same shall be heard and determined, at which Time and Place the Justices are hereby empowered to appoint some Person to prosecute the said Offender or Offenders, and the Person appointed shall prefer an Accusation in Writing, specifying the Time, Place and Nature of the Offence, as near as conveniently may be, to which Accusation the Offender or Offenders shall be obliged to Plead, and upon Refusal to plead, the like judgment shall be given against the Person or Persons so accused, as if convicted by Verdict or Confession. And upon Pleading thereto the Justices shall proceed to Tryal, in Conjunction with the said Free-holders so summoned as aforesaid, to which Freeholders no Peremptory Challenge shall be allowed. And if upon hearing the Matter (the said Free-holders being first Sworn by the said Justices, to Judge according to Evidence) they shall adjudge the Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave or Slaves Guilty of the Offence complained of, they shall give Sentence to Death upon him, her or them, as aforesaid, and by their Warrant cause immediate Execution to be done by the common or any other Executioner in such manner as they shall think fit. *Provided*, That the Evidence of Indian, Negro or Mullatto Slaves shall be Admitted and allowed on Tryals of such Slaves in all causes Criminal.

[§6] And whereas such Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave is the Property of some of her Majesties Subjects in this or the neighboring Provinces, *Be it therefore Enacted*, That any Master or Mistress of any Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slaves, supposed to be Guilty, as aforesaid, may, upon their desiring the same, have a jury to try the said Slave Returned by the Sheriff, and the said Master or Mistress may have Liberty to make such Challenges to the jury as is admitted to be made in other Cases of the like Nature.

[§7] And Whereas such Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave so put to Death will be a great Loss to the Owner of the same, who was no ways assisting, Countenancing or abetting his said Slave in the mischief done and perpetrated by the said Slave, and may induce the owner to transport the said Slave out of the Province, by which means the said Slave will be secured from the Punishment to be inflicted on him for his said Crime, and other Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slaves encouraged to do the like Mischief in hopes of the same security. For preventing of which for the future and that the owner of any Indian or Mullatto Slave may not be under any temptation of with-drawing and securing the said Slave from the prosecution of Justice, *Be it Enacted by the Governour, Council and General Assembly and by the Authority of the same*, That every Owner of any Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave (such owner Residing in this Province) shall for every Man Slave Executed for any of the Crimes aforesaid, receive the Sum of *Thirty Pounds*, Money according to the Queens Proclamation, and for every Woman Slave executed as aforesaid, the Sum of *Twenty Pounds*, Money aforesaid, to be Levied, Collected and paid in manner following, *To wit*, The Constables of every Town or District within this Province shall deliver a List of all the Negro, Indian and Mullatto Slaves within their and each of their Several and Respective Districts, both Men and Women, above the Age of Fourteen and under Fifty Years, which are not disabled or incapable of performing their Master or Mistresses Service, unto the Justices at their Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace in every County in the Months of *May* and *June*, Yearly and every Year, who shall Order the Clerk of the Peace to file the same, when any Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave shall happen to be Executed for any Crime, the Justices of the Peace of the County where the fact is

committed, or any three of them, one being of the *Quorum*, at the desire of the Master or Mistress of such Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave, shall meet together and call for the aforesaid List from the Clerk of the Peace, and according to said List they shall Assess the value of the said Slave or Slaves, so executed, equally on the Heads contained in the said List, *To wit, Thirty Pounds*, Money aforesaid, for a Man, and *Twenty Pounds* for a Woman, or less, as the said Justices in their discretion shall think fit, and shall appoint a Collector to Collect and Receive the same, of which Assessment made as aforesaid, and the time of Payment thereof, the Constables shall give notice to the Masters or Mistresses of such Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slaves, within their and each of their several and respective Districts within said County, and upon refusal or delay of payment, the said Collector shall deliver a List of the said Deficients to any Justice of the Peace of the said County, who shall make out Warrants to the Constables of the several Towns and Districts to distrain for the same, and the said Distress to sell at a publick Out-Cry, and pay the said Assessment to the said Collector, and *Eighteen Pence* to himself for the Charges of such Distress, and return the over-plus (if any be) to the Owner; and the said Collector shall pay the said Money, so Collected, to the Master or Mistress of said Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave so executed, as aforesaid and take his or her Receipt for the same, which he shall deliver to the Justices at their next Sessions of the Peace to be filed by the Clerk of the said Court.

[§8] And the Justices of the Peace are hereby allowed *one Shilling* for every Warrant of Distress, as aforesaid, the Collector for his trouble shall have *one Shilling* in the Pound for all Money Collected and paid by him by virtue of this Act, and each Constable shall have *Three Shillings* for giving notice as aforesaid.

[§9] *And be it further Enacted*, That if any Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave shall attempt to Ravish any White Woman or Maid, or that shall presume to Assault or strike any Free Man or Woman professing *Christianity*, any two Justices of the Peace are hereby authorized to Inflict such Corporal Punishment (not extending to Life or Limb) upon such Slave or Slaves so offending as to the said Justices shall seem meet.

[§10] *And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That if any Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave shall steal to the value of *Six Pence*, or above, and under *Five Shillings*, and be thereof convicted before two Justices of the Peace, one whereof being of the *Quorum*, such Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave shall be Whipt on the bare back at the publick Whipping-Place with Thirty Lashes, by the Constable of such Township or Place where the Offence was committed, or by such Person as he shall appoint. And that if any Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave shall steal to the value of *Five Shillings*, or above, such Slave shall be Whipt on the bare back with Forty Stripes, as aforesaid, by the Constable, as aforesaid, the which Constable shall receive for Whipping of each Slave, *Five Shillings*, to be paid by the Master or Mistress of the said Slave, and in default of Payment to be levied by Warrant from any Justice of the Peace, out of the Goods of the said Master or Mistress.

[§11] *And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That every Justice of the Peace, Constable or other Officer Neglecting, delaying or refusing to perform their several Duties enjoyned by this Act, shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of *Five Pounds* to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, to be recovered by Action of Debt in any of the Inferiour Courts of Common Pleas within this Province; and every Free-holder and jurors summoned, as aforesaid, and refusing to serve, shall forfeit *Twenty Shillings*, to be levied by the Constable, by Warrant of Distress from two of the Justices of the Peace assembled to try the said Slave, who are hereby required immediately, upon such refusal, to issue their Warrant for levying the same accordingly.

[§12] *Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That no Person or Persons whatsoever shall hereafter employ, harbour, Conceal or entertain other Peoples Slaves at their Houses, Out-Houses or Plantation, without the consent of their Master or Mistress, either signified to them Verbally, or by Certificate in writing under the said Master or Mistresses Hand, excepting in Distress of Weather, or other extraordinary Occasions, upon the forfeiture of *Forty Shillings* for every Time they are so entertained and concealed, to be paid to the Master or Mistress of such Slave or Slaves (so that the Penalty for entertaining such Slave exceeds not the Value of the said Slave) And if any Person or Persons whatsoever shall be found guilty [of] so harbouring, entertaining or concealing of any Slave, or assisting to the conveying them away, if such Slave shall happen to be lost, Dead, or otherways rendered Unserviceable, such Person or Persons so harbouring, entertaining, concealing, assisting or conveying them away, shall be also liable to pay the value of such Slave to the Master or Mistress, to be recovered by Action of Debt in any Court of Record within this Province.

[§13] *Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That no Negro, Indian or Mullatto Slave, that shall hereafter be made free, shall enjoy, hold or possess any House or Houses, Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments within this Province, in his or her own Right in Fee simple or Fee Tail, but the same shall Escheat to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors.

[§14] *And Whereas* it is found by experience, that Free Negroes are an Idle Sloathful People, and prove very often a charge to the Place where they are,

*Be it therefore further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That any Master or Mistress, manumitting and setting at Liberty any Negro or Mullatto Slave, shall enter into sufficient Security unto Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, with two Sureties, in the Sum of *Two Hundred Pounds*, to pay yearly and every year to such Negro or Mullatto Slave, during their Lives, the Sum of *Twenty Pounds*. And if such Negro or Mullatto Slave shall be made Free by the Will and Testament of any Person deceased, that then the Executors of such Person shall enter into Security, as above, immediately upon proving the said Will and Testament, which if refused to be given, the said Manumission to be void, and of none Effect (<http://nilegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A13.html>).

An Act to restrain Tavern-keepers and others from selling strong Liquors to Servants, Negroes and Molatto Slaves, and to prevent Negroes and Molatto Slaves, from meeting in large Companies, from running about at Nights, and from hunting or carrying a Gun on the Lord's Day. Oct. 25, 1751, 3 *Bush* 180-181

[§1] BE IT ENACTED by the Governor, Council and General Assembly, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Publication of this Act, if any Person or Persons have Reason to suspect that any Tavern-keeper or other Person or Persons whatsoever, (by themselves or any Person for them) have sold any strong Liquors to his, her or their Servant, Negro or Molatto Slave, without leave from their Master or Mistress in Writing, that it is and shall be lawful for him, her or them to apply to any Justice of the Peace, who is hereby required and directed, to issue his Warrant for apprehending the Person or Persons so suspected, to be brought before him, or any other of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace within the Town or Precinct where the suspected Person or Persons Inhabit, who is hereby required to tender the following Oath or Affirmation to the Person or Persons suspected, viz.

*I A.B. do in the presence of God, Declare and Swear, that I have not, nor any Person for me, by or with my Consent or Knowledge, sold any strong Liquors of any Kind whatsoever, to the Complainants Servant, Negro, or Molatto Slave, at any Time without his, her or their Consent in Writing for the same.*

AND if the Person or Persons so suspected, shall refuse to take the above Oath or Affirmation, their Refusal shall be and is hereby made sufficient Evidence to convict him, her, or them thereof; and Subject him, her, or them, to the Pains and Penalties prescribed by an Act entitled, *An Act for Regulating Taverns, Ordinaries, Inn Keepers and Retailers of strong Liquors.*

[§2] AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority aforesaid, that if any Negro or Molatto Slaves shall at any Time hereafter Meet and Assemble together, more than to the Number of *Five*, unless being on his, her or their Masters or Mistresses Business and Employment; the Constable or Constables on Information or Knowledge thereof, shall, and are hereby required to apprehend the Negro and Molatto Slaves that shall so meet, and carry them before the next Justice of the Peace, who is hereby required and directed to order him, her or them to be whipped on their bare Backs at his Discretion, not exceeding *Twenty* Lashes; and the Constable, or *Whipper*, to be paid by the Master or Mistress of such Negro or Molatto Slaves, the Sum of *Three Shillings*, for apprehending and Whipping each and every Negro or Molatto Slave, that shall offend as above.

[§3] AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Negro or Molatto Slave or Slaves, shall be seen or found from his or their Masters House, after the Hour of Nine at Night, except on their Masters or Mistresses particular Business, or shall be seen to hunt, or carrying a Gun on the Lord's Day; the Constable or Constables of such Town or Precinct, on Information or Knowledge thereof, shall and are hereby required and directed, to apprehend and carry such Negro and Molatto Slaves before the next Justice of the Peace, who shall order such Negro or Molatto Slave or Slaves, if found Guilty, to be whipped as by the preceding Clause of this Act is directed. PROVIDED ALWAYS, That nothing herein contained, shall be construed or taken, to prevent any Negro or Molatto Slave from going to Church or Meeting, and attending on Divine Service or from Burying their Dead, with their Master's or Mistresses Consent. (<http://nilegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A18.html>).

An ACT to regulate the Trial of Slaves for Murder and other Crimes, and to repeal so much of an Act, entitled, An Act to regulate Slaves, as relates to their Trial for Murder, and other capital Offences. May 10, 1768, 4 *Bush* 480-481.

WHEREAS the present Mode of trying Negro and Mulatto Slaves, for Murder and other capital Crimes, by Three or more Justices, and Five of the principal Freeholders of the County, hath on Experience, been found inconvenient: Therefore,

[§1] BE IT ENACTED *by the Governor, Council, and General Assembly, and it is hereby Enacted by the Authority of the same*, That from and after the Publication of this Act, every Negro, Indian, or Mulatto Slave, who shall murder or conspire, or attempt the Death of any of his Majesty's Liege People in this Colony; or shall commit any Rape on any of the said Subjects; or shall wilfully burn any Dwelling-House, Barn, Stable, Out-House, Stack or Stacks of Corn or Hay; or shall wilfully mutilate, maim or dismember, any of the Subjects as aforesaid, not being Slaves; or shall murder any Negro, Indian or Mulatto Slave, and be thereof convicted, by Confession or Verdict, in the Supreme Court, Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal Delivery, or Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, of the County wherein the Fact shall be committed, shall suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy: And that every Negro, Indian or Mulatto Slave, who shall in either of the said Courts be convicted of Manslaughter, or of stealing any Sum or Sums of Money, above the Value of *Five Pounds*, from any Person or Persons whatsoever, or shall commit any other Felony or Burglary, and be thereof legally convicted, in either of the said Courts, shall suffer Death, or such other Pains and Penalties, as the said Justices of the said Supreme Court, Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal Delivery, or Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, shall think proper to inflict; any Law, Usage or Custom to the Contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

[§2] AND BE IT ENACTED *by the Authority aforesaid*, That the said Justices of the said Courts, who by Virtue of this Act, shall try such Offender or Offenders, shall upon Conviction, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of them, or any Three of them, to the Sheriff of the County directed, command him to execute the Sentence or Judgment of the said Court, or cause the same to be executed, at such Time and Place as they shall direct.

[§3] AND BE IT ENACTED *by the Authority aforesaid*, That there shall be paid to the Sheriff, the Sum of *Five Pounds*, for executing any Negro, Indian or Mulatto Slave, found guilty in either of the Courts aforesaid, and condemned to Death by the Justices of the said Courts, or either of them, and such other Fees as by Law are given to Sheriffs and other Officers, for their Services in criminal Cases; to be paid by the County Collector, by Order from the Justices and Freeholders of the County where the Offence is committed; and to be assessed, levied, and raised by Order of any Three Justices (one being of the *Quorum*) equally on the Owners of Slaves, in Manner following, *to wit*, The Constable of every Town and District within this Province, shall deliver a List of all the Negro, Indian and Mulatto Slaves, within their and each of their several and respective Districts, both Men and Women, above the Age of Fourteen, and under Fifty Years, which are not disabled or incapable of performing their Master or Mistress's Service, unto the Justices at one of their Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace in every County, yearly and every Year; who shall order the Clerk of the Peace to file the same: And when any Negro, Indian and Mulatto Slave, shall be executed, or punished for any Crime or Crimes, the Justices of the Peace of the County where the Fact is committed, or any Three of them (one being of the *Quorum*) at the Desire of the said Sheriff, shall meet together, and call for the aforesaid List, from the Clerk of the Peace; and according to the said List, they shall assess the Value of the said Costs of the Prosecution,

equally on the Heads contained in the said List, and shall appoint a Collector to collect and receive the same; and when so collected and received, the same to pay to the said Sheriff for his Fees and Services, and the Fees and Services of the Prosecution or Prosecutions aforesaid: And upon a Refusal or Delay of Payment, the said Collector shall deliver a List of the Person or Persons so refusing or delaying, to any Justice of the Peace of the said County, who shall make out Warrants to the Constables of the several Towns and Districts, to distrain for the same; and the said Distress to sell at a publick Outcry, and pay the said Assessment to the said Collector, and *Eighteen Pence* to himself for the Charges of such Distress, and return the Overplus (if any be) to the Owner: And the said Collector shall pay the said Money so collected, to the said Sheriff, and take his Receipt for the same, which he shall deliver to the Justices at their next Sessions of the Peace, to be filed by the Clerk of the said Court.

[§4] AND BE IT ENACTED *by the Authority aforesaid*, That the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Sections of the Act, entitled, *An Act to regulate Slaves*, shall be, and hereby are repealed and made void, and of no Effect; any Thing in said Act to the Contrary in any wise notwithstanding (<http://nilegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A23.html>).

An ACT to prevent the Importation of Slaves into the State of New-Jersey, and to authorize the Manumission of them under certain Restrictions, and to prevent the Abuse of Slaves. March 2, 1786, Acts 10th G.A. 2nd sitting, ch. CXIX, p.239-242.

WHEREAS the Principles of Justice and Humanity require, that the barbarous Custom of bringing the unoffending Africans from their native Country and Connections into a State of Slavery ought to be discountenanced, and as soon as possible prevented; and sound Policy also requires, in order to afford ample Support to such of the Community as depend upon their Labour for their daily Subsistence, that the Importation of Slaves into this State from any other State or Country whatsoever, ought to be prohibited under certain Restrictions and that such as are under Servitude in the State ought to be protected by Law from those Exercises of wanton Cruelty too often practised upon them; and that every unnecessary Obstrucion in the Way of freeing Slaves should be removed; therefore,

*Sect. I. Be IT ENACTED by the Council and General Assembly of this State, and it is hereby Enacted by the Authority of the same, That, from and after the Publication of this Act, it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons whatsoever to bring into this State, either for Sale or for Servitude, any Negro Slave brought from Africa since the Year Seventeen Hundred and Seventy-six; and every Person offending by bringing into this State any such Negro Slave shall, for each Slave, forfeit and Pay the Sum of Fifty Pounds, to be sued for and recovered with Costs by the Collector of the Township into which such Slave shall be brought, to be applied when recovered to the Use of the State.*

*2. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person shall either bring or procure to be brought into this State, any Negro or Mulatto Slave, who shall not have been born in or brought from Africa since the Year above-mentioned, and either sell or buy, or cause such Negro or Mulatto Slave to be sold, or to remain in this State, for the Space of six Months, every such Person, so bringing or procuring to be brought or selling or purchasing such Slave not born in or brought from Africa since the Year aforesaid shall, for every such Slave, forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Pounds, to be sued for and recovered with Costs by the Collector of the township into which such Slave shall be brought or remain after the Time limited for that Purpose, the Forfeiture to be applied to the Use of the State as aforesaid.*

*3. Provided always, and be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to prevent any Person who shall remove into the State to take a settled Residence here, from bringing all his or her Slaves without incurring the Penalties aforesaid, excepting such Slaves as shall have been brought from Africa since the Year first above-mentioned, or to prevent any Foreigners or others having only a temporary Residence in this State, for the Purpose of transacting any particular Business, or on their Travels, from bringing and employing such Slaves as Servants, during the Time of his or her Stay here, provided such Slave shall not be sold or disposed of in this State.*

*4. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all the Forfeitures which may be recovered as aforesaid shall, by the Collector recovering the same, be paid into the Treasury; and if any Collector shall be put to any necessary Expence in prosecuting as aforesaid, he shall be credited for the same out of the publick Money in his Hands; and in case any Collector shall neglect or refuse to prosecute to Effect, for any Fine or Forfeiture incurred as aforesaid, he shall, for every such Neglect or Refusal, forfeit and pay the Sum which he ought to have recovered, which, together with the Sums recovered by any*



Collector upon Non-Payment thereof, shall be sued for and recovered with Costs, by the Treasurer of this State for the Time being, to be applied to the Use of the State.

5. *And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That it shall and may be lawful for any Owner, Master or Mistress of any Negro or Mulatto Slave, to manumit and set free such Slave by executing a Writing under Hand and Seal, certifying such Manumission, and also obtaining a Certificate, signed by two of the Overseers of the Poor of the Township, and any two Justices of the Peace of the County wherein the said Master or Mistress may reside, in the Words or to the Effect following ;

County, ss.

We do hereby certify, that on this Day of in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and A B of the Township of in the said County of brought before us, two of the Overseers of the Poor of said Township, and two of the Justices of the Peace of said County, his or her Slave, named who on View and Examination appears to us to be found in Mind, and not under any bodily Incapacity of obtaining a Support, and also is not under twenty-one Years of Age, nor above thirty-five :  
In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands the Day of One Thousand Seven Hundred and

And recording such Certificates in the Clerk's Office of the County in which the said Master or Mistress shall then reside, provided such Slave shall not, when set free, be under the Age of twenty-one Years, nor exceed the Age of thirty-five Years, the Master or Mistress, giving the Freedom in such Cafe, shall forever thereafter be exonerated and acquitted from all Costs and Charges which may arise for the Support of the Slave so manumitted, excepting their Proportion of any Tax that hereafter may be assessed for the Support of the said Slave.

6. *And be it further Enacted* That the legal Settlement of every Slave, manumitted as aforesaid, that shall or may be likely to become a publick Charge, shall, and the fame is hereby declared in all Cases whatsoever to be in that Township in this State where the Master or Mistress manumitting such Slave may have a legal Settlement at the Time of such Manumission ; and that no Possession, Duty or Employment of, or Taxes paid by, a manumitted Slave, shall procure a Settlement otherwise than herein above-mentioned, any Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

7. *And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That if any Slave, which hath been or shall be manumitted or set free, shall hereafter be convicted of Felony, or any other Crime or Offence in this State above the Degree of Petit Larceny, and shall not be condemned to suffer Death for the same, or shall be convicted of having more than twice been guilty of Petit Larceny or other Offence equally criminal and injurious to the Community, the Court before whom such Conviction in either Case above-mentioned may be had, shall give Judgment against the Offender, that, within one Month after being released from Confinement, he or she shall remove out of the State, and remain in Exile out of the same during Life, or for such a Term of Years as the Court shall judge adequate to the Crime or Offence; and if any such Offender shall be found in the State after the Time fixed for removing out of the same, and before the Expiration of the Time limited for his or her Continuance in Exile, every such Offender, so found in the State, shall be immediately taken up and secured by the Sheriff of the County in which such exiled Offender shall be found, which Offender the said Sheriff shall sell at publick Auction for the Term

remaining of his or her Banishment, whether the same shall be for Life or for a limited Term, and every Offender sold by the sheriff as herein directed shall remain the Property of the Purchaser, or his Assigns during the Term such Sale by this Act is authorized to be made; and all the Money arising by any Sale made as aforesaid the Sheriff making the same shall be accountable for, and pay to the Treasurer of this State for the Time being, for the Use of the State, after deducting five per Cent therefrom for the Trouble and Expence of such Sale.

8. *And be it further Enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the Grand-Jury of any County in this State to indict any Person for inhumanly treating and abusing his or her Slave; and if, upon the Prosecution of any such Indictment, the said Master or Mistress shall be convicted of the Offence, the Court before whom such Conviction shall be had may impose such Fine for the Offence as in their Discretion they shall deem proper, not exceeding Five Pounds for the first, and Ten Pounds for the second Offence ; which Fine, when recovered, shall be paid to the Overseer of the Poor for the Use of the Township in which the said Master or Mistress shall reside.

9. *And be it further Enacted*, That no Negro or Mulatto manumitted and set free in any other State shall be permitted to travel or reside in this State ; and if any Inhabitant of this State shall Harbour, conceal or employ any Negro or Mulatto, set free in any other State, and coming into this State, or suffer any such Negro or Mulatto to live on his or her Land, or in his or her House or other Tenement for one Week, every Person so offending shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds for every Week he or she shall harbour, conceal, employ or furnish such Negro or Mulatto with House or Land as aforesaid, to be recovered with Costs by and to the Use of any Person who will sue for the same ; and that no Negro or Mulatto, manumitted in this State, shall be permitted to travel or remain in any County or Township in this State other than in the County or Township in which such Slave was set free, without a Certificate from two Justices of the Peace of the County in which the Manumiffion was effected, certifying that such Negro or Mulatto was set free in such a Township in the County, countersigned by the Clerk of the County under the Seal of the Court.

Passed at Trenton, March 2, 1786.

<http://nilegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A69.html>

An Act respecting Slaves. March 14, 1798, Acts 22nd G.A. 2nd sitting, ch. DCCXXVII, p. 364-373

*Sect. 1. BE IT ENACTED by the Council and General Assembly of the state, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same* That every negro, indian, mulatto or mestee, within this state, who, at the time of passing this act, is a slave for his or her life, shall continue such during his or her life; unless he or she, shall be manumitted and set free in the manner prescribed by law,

2 . *And be it enacted*, That no slave shall be admitted a witness against any person in any matter, cause, or thing whatsoever, civil or criminal, except in criminal cases, in which the evidence of one slave shall be admitted for or against another slave.

3. *And be it enacted*, That no person or persons shall trade or traffic, either in buying, bartering or selling, with any slave, without the leave or consent of the master or mistress of such slave, on pain of forfeiting three dollars, for such offence, to the master or mistress of such slave, to be recovered, with costs, against the person or persons so trading contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, by action of debt, in any court having cognizance thereof; and also, that every contract or bargain, which shall be so made, with any slave, without the permission or consent of his or her master or mistress, shall be void and of no effect.

4. *And be it enacted*, That if any person or persons shall hereafter employ, harbour, conceal, or entertain any negro or other slave, knowing such negro or other slave to be the slave of any other person or persons, without the consent of the master, mistress, or owner of such slave, he, she or they shall forfeit to the master, mistress or owner of such slave the sum of four dollars for every twenty-four hours, and in that proportion for a greater or less time, while such slave shall have been employed, harboured, concealed, or entertained as aforesaid, which forfeiture or penalty shall be recovered by action of debt, with costs of suit, in any court having cognizance thereof--*Provided always*, That such forfeiture or penalty shall not in the whole exceed the value of such slave.

5. *And be it enacted*, That if any person or persons shall be found guilty of harbouring; entertaining, or concealing any slave, or conveying, or assisting to convey away such slave, and if such slave shall be lost, die, or be otherwise destroyed, or shall be disabled, or rendered unserviceable, the person or persons, so harbouring, entertaining; concealing, conveying; or assisting to convey away such slave, shall be liable to pay the value of such slave to the owner or owners, to be recovered by action of debt or trespass on the case, with costs of suit, in any court having cognizance thereof.

6. *And be it enacted*, That if any person shall take up any negro or other slave at a distance of ten miles from the habitation of his or her master or mistress, who hath not permission in writing from his or her master or mistress, or is not known to be on his or her service or business, the person so taking up such slave shall have for his reward one dollar; with reasonable charges for carrying him or her home, to be paid by the master or mistress of such slave; and in case of non-payment, to be recovered by action of debt or trespass on the case, with costs of suit, in any, court having cognizance thereof.

7. *And be it enacted*, That if any negro or other slave, of or belonging to any inhabitant of any of the other states in the union, shall come into this state without license, under the hand of his or her master or mistress, or who is not known to be on his or her business or service, every such negro or other have

shall be taken up by any person in this state, and be carried before the next justice of the peace, who is hereby authorized and required, by a warrant under his hand and seal, to commit such slave to the gaol of the city or county; and the person so taking up every such slave shall have for his reward two dollars, to be paid by the master or mistress of such slave; and further, that such slave shall remain in prison till the same be paid, with all reasonable charges.

8. *And be it enacted*, That if any negro or other slaves shall meet and assemble together in a disorderly or tumultuous manner, any constable, or other person, on view or information thereof, shall and may require, them immediately to disperse; and go to their respective places of abode; and if such slaves shall not forthwith disperse and retire accordingly, such constable, or other person, are hereby authorized, and it is especially made the duty of such constable, to apprehend such slaves and carry them before the next justice or justices of the peace, who is and are hereby empowered and directed to enquire into the charges, exhibited against such slaves, or any of them, and at his or their due discretion, according to the circumstances of the case, to send them, or any of them, to their respective master or mistress, or to commit them, or any of them, to the gaol of the city or county; there to remain for any space of time not exceeding one week, or (if the master or mistress of any such slave or slaves shall signify their desire, either in person or by writing, to the said justice or justices) to order and direct such slaves, or any of them, to be whipped on the bare back by the said constable, not exceeding twenty lashes; and any of the said slaves being committed to prison, shall there remain until the master or mistress shall satisfy all reasonable charges; .and any of the said slaves being whipped, the master or mistress shall be liable to pay the said constable one dollar for such and every of his or her slaves so whipped.

9. *And be it enacted*, That is any Negro shall be seen or found from the dwelling-house of his or her master or mistress after the hour of ten at night, except on particular business of his or her master or mistress, or shall be seen to hunt or carry a gun on the first day of the week, or christian Sabbath, commonly called Sunday, any constable or other person, on information or knowledge thereof, are hereby authorized, and it is especially made the duty of such constable, to apprehend and carry such negro or other slave before the next justice or justices of the peace, who, on examination of the matter (if such slave shall not give a good account of himself or herself) shall, at his or their due discretion, according to the circumstances of the case, do and act towards such slave in the same manner in all respects as by the preceding section of this act is prescribed; and any such slave being committed to prison, shall there remain until the master or mistress shall satisfy all reasonable charges; and in case such slave shall be ordered to be whipped, then the master or mistress of such slave shall be liable to pay the constable for performing that service the sum of one dollar: *Provided*, That nothing in this, or the preceding section contained, shall be construed or taken to prevent any negro or other slave from going to any place of worship, or from any innocent recreation, or from doing any other reasonable act with his or her master or mistress's consent.

10. *And be it enacted*, That no person or persons within this state shall, knowingly and willingly, suffer or permit his, her or their slave to go about begging of others victuals, clothing, or, other necessities, or money; and if any person or persons shall offend herein, he, she or they shall, for every such offence, forfeit the sum of eight dollars, to be recovered by action of debt, with costs of suit, in any court having cognizance thereof, by any person or persons who will sue for the same, the one half thereof to be paid to the overseers of the poor of the township where such offence shall be committed; and the other half to the person or persons who shall prosecute for the same to effect.

11. *And be it enacted*, That if any person or persons shall, by any collusive conveyance, or fraudulent agreement, sell or dispose of, or pretend to sell or dispose of any aged or decrepid slave, to any person or persons who is or are unable, to keep and maintain such slave; such sale or pretended sale shall be absolutely void, and the person or persons making such sale or pretended sale, shall forfeit the sum of forty dollars for such offence, and shall moreover be deemed the owner or owners of such slave; which forfeitures shall be recovered and applied in the manner directed in and by the next preceding section of this act.

12. *And be it enacted*, That, from and after the passing of this act it shall not be lawful for any person or persons whatsoever to bring into this state, either for sale or for servitude, any negro or other slave whatsoever; and every person offending, by bringing into this state any such negro, or other slave, shall, for such slave, forfeit and pay, the sum of one hundred and forty dollars; to be recovered by action of debt, with costs of suit in any court having cognizance thereof, by the collector of the township into which such slave shall be brought, to be paid by such township collector to the county collector, and by him to the treasurer, for the use of the state, *Provided always*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to prevent any person, who shall remove into this state to take a settled residence here, from bring all his or her slaves without incurring any of the penalties aforesaid, or to prevent any foreigners or others, having only a temporary residence in this state, for the purpose of transacting any particular business, or on their travels, from bringing and employing such slaves as servants during the time of his or her stay here, provided such slave shall not be sold or disposed of in this state.

13. *And be it enacted*, That any citizen of this state, who at the time of the passing of this act shall own any slave or slaves in any the United States, shall have power and authority to bring any such slave or slaves into this state for servitude, and not for sale, without incurring any of the penalties or forfeitures mentioned in this act, upon producing a certificate to the collector of the city or township into which the said slave or slaves may be brought, from any judge of the supreme court, or court of common pleas, of the state from which such slave or slaves shall be brought, certifying, at such slave or, slaves was or were the property of the citizen so applying at the time of passing this act; and to the truth of the subject matter of the said certificate; the party producing it shall take oath before any judge or justice of this state, and shall file the said certificate in the clerk's office of the county into which such slave or slaves is or are brought.

14. *And be it enacted*, That all forfeitures, which may be recorded as aforesaid, shall, by the township collector recovering the same, be paid forward to the county collector, and by him be paid to the treasury; and if any collector shall be put to any necessary expense in prosecuting as aforesaid, he shall be credited for the time out of the public money in his hands; and in case any collector shall neglect or refuse to prosecute to effect, for any forfeiture incurred as aforesaid, he shall for every such neglect or refusal, forfeit and pay the sum which he ought to have recovered, which, together with the sums recovered by any collector upon non-payment thereof, shall be sued for and recovered by action of debt, with costs of suit, in any court having cognizance thereof, the treasurer of the state for the time being, for the use of the state.

15. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the grand jury of every county in this slate to indict any person for inhumanly treating and abusing his or her slave, and the person so offending shall, on conviction, be punished by a fine, not exceeding forty dollars, which fine shall be paid to the overseer of the poor for the use of the township in which such offender shall reside.

16. *And be it enacted*, That the owner or owners of any negro, or other slave or slaves, or of any negro, mulatto, or mestee servant or servants, for life or years, who shall have been born since the twenty-fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, and before the passing of this act, or who shall be born at any time after the passing of this act, shall cause every such slave or slaves, servant or servants, while under the age of twenty-one years, to be taught and instructed to read; and the owner or owners of any such slave or slaves, servant or servants, who shall neglect or refuse to cause such slave or slaves, servant or servants, to be taught and instructed as aforesaid; shall forfeit and pay thirty dollars, to be recovered by action of debt, with costs of suit, in any court having cognizance thereof, by the overseers of the poor of the township, whose duty it is hereby expressly made to prosecute for the same, and to apply the monies when recovered to the use of the poor.

17. *And be it enacted*, That if any person or persons shall fit out, equip, man, or otherwise prepare any ship, or other vessel, to sail from, any port or harbour of this state, for the purpose of carrying on a trade or traffic in slaves; to, from, or between Europe, Asia, Africa, or America, or any places or countries whatever, or of transporting slaves to or from one port or place to another, such ship or vessel, her cargo, tackle, furniture, apparel, and other appurtenances, shall be forfeited, and be liable to be seized by any justice of the peace, sheriff, or coroner, within this state, and prosecuted by such justice of the peace, sheriff, or coroner, making such seizure, by information *in rem*, in the supreme court, or the inferior court of common pleas of the county, within which such seizure shall be made.

18. *And be it enacted*, That every ship or other vessel, with her cargo, tackle, furniture, apparel; and other appurtenances, so seized as aforesaid, and against which judgment shall be had and obtained, shall, by order of the court, in which such judgment was so had, be sold at public venue by the sheriff of the county; unless the said sheriff be a party to the prosecution, and then by the coroner of the county in which the said seizure was made, who, after deducting all legal costs and charges, to be taxed by one of the judges of the court in which the said judgment was had, is hereby ordered and directed to pay seven eighth parts of the net proceeds thereof to the collector of the county in which such seizure was made, for the use of the state; and the remaining eighth part thereof to the person or persons who made the seizure, and prosecuted the same to effect; and the said sheriff or coroner, by whom the said sale shall be made, is hereby entitled to receive and take out of the proceeds of the said sale one per cent. for his trouble.

19. *And be it enacted*, That if any master, seaman, or other person, on board any ship or other vessel, so liable to be seized as aforesaid, shall refuse, or not suffer to enter, or resist before or after entering on board such ship or vessel, any such person or persons attempting to enter on board, or being already entered on board such ship or other vessel for the purpose of making such seizure as aforesaid, every person, so refusing or resisting, shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred and thirty dollars, to be recovered by the person or persons so resisted, in an action of debt, with costs of suit, in any court of record in this state, having cognizance thereof, one half part for the use of the state, and the other half part for the use of the person or persons who shall prosecute the same to effect.

20. *And be it enacted*, That no negro or other slave shall be removed out of this state, whose place of residence has been therein for twelve calendar months immediately preceding such removal, with a design and intention, that the place of abode or residence of such slave shall be thereby changed, without his or her consent, if of full age, testified upon private examination, before a justice of the peace

of the county, in which he or she shall reside, or, being under the age of twenty-one years; without his or her consent, testified in manner aforesaid, as also without the consent of his or her parent or parents, if any there be, to be testified in like manner, whereof the said justice shall make a record, and deliver to said slave a copy thereof, containing the name, age, condition, and then place of abode of such slave, the reason of such removal, and the place to which he or she is about to go; and if any person or persons whatsoever, shall sell or dispose of any such slave to any person out of this state, without having previously obtained all such consent as by this act is required, testified in the manner aforesaid, every such person or persons, his, her, or their aiders and abettors, shall severally forfeit and pay, for every such offence, the sum of fifty dollars, to be recovered by action of debt in any court having cognizance thereof, with costs of suit, by any person who will sue for the same, one moiety to the plaintiff, and the other moiety to the use of the poor of the township from which such slave may be removed--*Provided*, That nothing in this act shall be construed or understood to make any person or persons liable to the above penalty, who may or shall remove to and reside in any other of the United States, and take his, her, or their slave or slaves with him, her, or them.

21. *And be it enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the owner of any negro or other slave, to manumit and set free such slave, by writing under, hand and seal, executed in the presence of at least two witnesses, provided such slave, at the time of such instrument of manumission being executed, shall be sound in mind, and not under any bodily incapacity of obtaining a support, and shall not be under the age of twenty-one years, nor above the age of forty years ; and provided also, that the owner of such slave shall, previous to the execution of such instrument of manumission, obtain a certificate, signed by two of the overseers of the poor of the township, and any, two justices of the peace of the county wherein such owner shall reside, and also cause such certificate to be recorded in the office of the clerk of the said county; for which service the said clerk shall be entitled to one shilling; which certificate shall be in the words, or to the effect following:

County, to wit. We do hereby certify, that on this     day of     in the year of our Lord, one thousand     A. B. of the township of     in the said county of     brought before us, two of the overseers of the poor of the said township, and two of the justices of the peace of the said county; his or her slave, named.     who, on view and examination, appears to us to be sound in mind, and not under any bodily incapacity of obtaining a support, and also is not under the age of twenty-one years, nor above the age of forty years. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands, the day and year above written:

C. D. Overseers of the poor and of said township of

E. F.

G.H. Justices of the peace in and for the said county of

I. K.

That upon such certificate being so signed and recorded as aforesaid, and such instrument of manumission being so executed as aforesaid, such slave shall be deemed and adjudged to be free; and the owner of such slave shall be exonerated and acquitted from all costs and charges; which may arise for the support of such slave so manumitted, except his or her proportion of any tax or assessment that thereafter may be laid for the support of the said slave.

22. *And be it enacted*, That if any person, by his or her last will and testament, shall give his or her slave freedom, such slave, being at the time of the death of the testator or testatrix, sound in mind, and not under any bodily incapacity of obtaining a support, and also not under the age of twenty-one years, nor

above the age of forty years, to be certified in manner aforesaid, then such freedom shall be good and effectual in law.

23. *And be it enacted*, That if the owner or owners of any other slave than such as is described in the two sections next preceding, be disposed to manumit and set free such other slave, and such owner or owners, or any other sufficient person, for and in behalf of such slave, shall and do, at the court of common pleas of the county where such slave shall reside, enter into a bond to the state of New-Jersey, with at least two sureties, being inhabitants and freeholders of and in the said county, to be approved by such court, in a sum not less than five hundred dollars, to prevent and keep such slave from becoming or being any charge to any township, place, or county, in this state, then such slave shall be free, according to such manumission of his or her owner--*Provided*, That such manumission be in writing, signed and sealed by the owner or owners of such slave, in the presence of at least two witnesses--And further, That if any such slave of the description contained in this section shall be made free by the last will and testament of any person deceased, and if the executor or executors of such last will and testament, or in case of the neglect or refusal of such executor or executors, if any other sufficient person, shall and do, within six calendar months after proving the said last will and testament, enter into a bond, with sureties, and in manner aforesaid, then the said. slave shall be free, according to the true intent and meaning of such last will and testament, but if in any of the cases mentioned in this section, such bond be not entered into, in the manner aforesaid, then the said manumission will be absolutely void and of no effect.

24. *And be it enacted*. That all slaves manumitted after the passing of this act shall be discharged and exonerated after he or she arrives to the age of forty years from the payment of any bond, note, or other contract or performance of any indenture that shall have been obtained against him or her in consequence of such manumission.

25. *And be it enacted*, That the legal settlement of every slave, manumitted agreeably to the directions of this act, who shall be likely to become a public charge, shall be in that township or place in this state, where the owner, manumitting such slave, may have a legal settlement, at the time of such manumission--*Provided*, That nothing, in this section contained shall be construed to prevent any slave, so manumitted from afterwards gaining legal settlement in any other township in the same manner as white persons may gain a legal settlement by virtue of the existing laws of this state.

26. *And be it enacted*, That every owner of any negro or other slave not manumitted according to the directions of this act, his or her heirs, executors or administrators shall be obliged, at all times, to support and maintain such slave-- *Provided*, That if any such owner shall become insolvent, and so unable to provide for and maintain his or her slave, who shall, by sickness or otherwise, be rendered incapable of supporting himself or herself, then such slave shall be deemed to be a pauper, whose legal settlement shall follow the legal settlement in this state of his or her owner.

27. *And be it enacted*, That no free negro or mulatto, of or belonging to any other state in the union shall be permitted to travel or reside in this state without a certificate from two justices of the peace of such other state, that such negro or mulatto was set free or deemed and taken to be free in that state; and if any inhabitant of this state shall harbour, conceal or employ any such negro or mulatto so coming into this state, not having a certificate as aforesaid, or suffer any such negro or mulatto, not having a certificate as aforesaid, to live on his or her land, or in his or her house or other tenement for one week, knowing such negro or mulatto to belong to any other state, then every person so offending shall forfeit



and pay twelve dollars for every week he or she shall harbour, conceal, employ or furnish such negro or mulatto with house or land as aforesaid, to be recovered by action of debt, with costs of suit, by and to the use of any person who shall sue for the same in any court where the same may be cognizable.

28. *And be it enacted*, That no free negro or mulatto, of or belonging to this state, shall be permitted to travel or remain in any county in this state, other than in the county where his or her place of residence may lawfully be, without a certificate from two justices of the peace of the county in which he or she belonged, or from the clerk of the county, under the seal of the court, certifying that such negro or mulatto was set free, or deemed and taken to be free in such county.

29. *And be it enacted*, That when any habeas corpus shall be brought, to remove any negro, mulatto, mestee or indian, before the supreme court, out of the possession or custody of any person or persons claiming the service of such negro, mulatto, mestee or indian, for life, years, or other term, the person or persons to whom the said habeas corpus is directed may, in the return to the same writ, aver and let forth, that he, she or they has or have lawful right to the personal service of the said negro, mulatto, mestee or indian, for life, years, or other term, as the case may be; whereupon, the prosecutor shall instanter join issue by denying the right of the defendant or defendants to the personal service of such negro, mulatto, mestee or indian, either for life, years or, other term, and immediately upon the joinder of the said issue, the court shall award a venire facias to the sheriff, or coroner, as the case may require, of the county in which such party defendant resides, commanding him or them to summon a jury to appear at the next circuit court to be held in such county for the trial of the issue so joined as aforesaid.

30. *And be it enacted*, That the act intituled, An act for regulating slaves," passed the eleventh day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and thirteen-fourteen, and the act, intituled, An act to restrain tavernkeepers; and others from selling strong liquors to servants, negroes and mulatto slaves, and to prevent negroes and mulatto slaves from meeting in large companies, from running about at nights, or from hunting or carrying a gun on the Lord's day," passed the twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-one, and the act intituled, An act to regulate the trial of slaves for murder and other crimes, and to repeal so much of an act, intituled, An act to regulate slaves, as relates to their trial for murder, and other capital offences," passed the tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight, and the act, intituled, An act for laying a duty, on the purchasers of slaves imported into this colony," passed the sixteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine, and the act, intituled, An act to prevent, the importation of slaves into the state of New-Jersey, and to authorise the manumission of them under certain restrictions, and to prevent the abuse of slaves," passed the second day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, and the supplement thereto, passed the twenty-fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, be and the same are hereby repealed.

Passed at Trenton, March 14, 1798.

<http://nilegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A75.html>

An act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery, Feb.15, 1804, Acts 28th G.A. 2nd sitting, ch.CIII, p.251-254.

SEC. 1. *BE it enacted by the Council and General Assembly of this State, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same*, That every child born of a slave within this state, after the fourth day of July next, shall be free; but shall remain the servant of the owner of his or her mother, and the executors, administrators or assigns of such owner, in the same manner as if such child had been bound to service by the trustees or overseers of the poor, and shall continue in such service, if a male, until the age of twenty five years; and if a female until the age of twenty one years.

2. *And be it enacted*, That every person being an inhabitant of this state, who shall be entitled to the service of a child born as aforesaid, after the said fourth day of July next, shall within nine months after the birth of such child, cause to be delivered to the clerk of the county whereof such person shall be an inhabitant, a certificate in writing, containing the name and addition of such person, and the name, age, and sex of the child so born; which certificate, whether the same be delivered before or after the said nine months; shall be by the said clerk recorded in a book to be by him provided for that purpose; and such record thereof shall be good evidence of the age of such child; and the clerk of such county shall receive from said person twelve cents for every child so registered: and if any person shall neglect to deliver such certificate to the said clerk within the said nine months, such person shall forfeit and pay for every such offence, five dollars, and the further sum of one dollar for every month such person shall neglect to deliver the same, to be sued for and recovered by any person who will sue for the same, the one half to the use of such prosecutor, and the residue to the use of the poor of the township in which such delinquent shall reside.

3. *And be it enacted*, That the person entitled to the service of any child born as aforesaid, may, nevertheless within one year after the birth of such child, elect to abandon such right; in which case a notification of such abandonment, under the hand of such person, shall be filed with the clerk of the township, or where there may be a county poorhouse established, then with the clerk of the board of trustees of said poor-house of the county in which such person shall reside; but every child so abandoned shall be maintained by such person until such child arrives to the age of one year, and thereafter shall be considered as a pauper of such township or county, and liable to be bound out by the trustees or overseers of the poor in the same manner as other poor children are directed to be bound out, until, if a male, the age of twenty five, and if a female, the age of twenty one; and such child, while such pauper, until it shall be bound out, shall be maintained by the trustees or overseers of the poor of such county or township, as the case may be, at the expence of this state; and for that purpose the director of the board of chosen freeholders of the county, is hereby required, from time to time, to draw his warrant on the treasurer in favor of such trustees or overseers for the amount of such expence, not exceeding the rate of three dollars per month; provided the accounts for the same be first certified and approved by such board of trustees, or the town committee of such township; and every person who shall omit to notify such abandonment as aforesaid, shall be considered as having to retain the service of such child, and be liable for its maintenance until the period to which its servitude is limited as aforesaid.

Passed at Trenton, Feb. 15, 1804.

<http://nilegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A78.html>

A Supplement to the act entitled 'An act to regulate the election of members of the legislative council and general assembly, sheriffs and coroners in this state,' passed at Trenton the twenty-second day of February, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven. November 16, 1807, §1, *Acts 32nd G.A. 1st sitting, ch. II, p.14.*

WHEREAS doubts have been raised, and great diversities in practice obtained throughout the state in regard to the admission of *aliens, females, and persons of color, or negroes* to vote in elections, as also in regard to the mode of ascertaining the qualifications of voters in respect to *estate*.---AND WHEREAS, it is highly necessary to the safety, quiet, good order and dignity of the state, to clear up the said doubts by an act of the representatives of the people, declaratory of the true sense and meaning of the constitution, and to ensure its just execution in these particulars, according to the intent of the framers thereof;--THEREFORE,

SEC. 1. BE IT ENACTED, *by the council and general assembly of this state, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same*, That from and after the passing of this act, no person shall vote in any state or county election for officers in the government of the United States, or of this state, unless such person be a *free, white, male citizen* of this state, of the age of twenty-one years, worth fifty pounds proclamation money, clear estate, and haved resided in the county where he claims a vote, for at least twelve months immediately preceding the election.

<http://njlegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A80-5.html>

## An act to prohibit the exportation of Slaves or Servants of Colour out of this State.

Sec. 1. BE IT ENACTED, *by the Council and General Assembly of this state, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same* That no negro, or other slave, or servant of colour, for life or years, shall hereafter be removed, exported, or carried out of this state, except as herein after provided.

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted*, That if any person shall send to sea or export, or attempt to export from this state, or send or carry out of, or attempt to send or carry out of this state, except as is by this act provided, any slave or servant of colour, for life or years, every person so exporting or attempting to export, or sending or carrying out of this state, or attempting to send or carry out of this state, such slave or servant, and his, her, or their aiders and abettors shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be punished by fine, not less than one thousand, nor more than two thousand dollars, or imprisoned at hard labour for any term not less than two, nor more than four years, or both at the discretion of the court. *And further*, that every slave or servant so exported, or carried out of this state, or attempted to be exported or carried out of this state, or sent to be sea, shall be free.

Sec. 3. *And be it enacted*, That if any person shall hereafter sell, transfer, or assign any slave or servant of colour, for life or years, to any non-resident, or person not being an inhabitant of this state, or to any person intending to remove, or export, or carry such slave or servant out of this state, every person so knowingly selling, transferring, or assigning such slave or servant, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, shall be punished by fine not less than five hundred, nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not less than one year nor more than two years, or both at the discretion of the court. *And further*, that every slave or servant so sold, transferred, or assigned to any non-resident, or person not being an inhabitant of this state, or to any person intending to remove, or export, or carry away such slave or servant, out of this state, shall be free.

Sec. 4. *And be it enacted*, That if any person shall purchase or take a transfer or assignment, of any slave or servant of colour, for life or years, with a design or intent to export or send or carry such slave or servant out of this state, such person shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, shall be punished by fine not less than one thousand, nor more than two thousand dollars, or by imprisonment at hard labour, not less than two, nor more than four years, or both, at the discretion of the court. *And further*, that every slave or servant so purchased, transferred, or assigned, shall be free.

Sec. 5. *And be it enacted*, That if any person or persons shall fit out, equip, or man, or otherwise prepare any ship or other vessel, to sail from any port or harbour of this state, for the purpose of exporting or carrying but of this state, or sending to sea, any slave or servant of colour, for life or years, such ship or vessel, her cargo, tackle, furniture, and apparel shall be forfeited, and shall and may be seized by any justice of the peace, sheriff or coroner within the state, and prosecuted by such justice, sheriff, or coroner, making such seizure, by information in *rem* in

the Supreme Court or the Inferior Court of Common Pleas of the county in which such seizure shall be made.

Sec. 6. *And be it enacted*, That every ship or vessel, with her cargo, tackle, furniture, and apparel so seized, as aforesaid, and against which judgment shall be had and obtained, shall by order of the court in which such judgment shall be had, be sold by the sheriff of the county in which such seizure was made, or in case the said sheriff be a party to the prosecution, then by one of the coroners of such county, who after deducting all legal costs and charges, to be taxed by the court in which said judgment was had, and two per cent on the amount of such sale; shall pay one half of the nett proceeds thereof to the collector of the county in which the seizure was made, for the use of the state, and the remaining part thereof to the person or persons making such seizure and prosecuting the same to effect.

Sec. 7. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, sheriff, or coroner of any county within this state, to go on board of or enter any ship or vessel lying in any port or harbour of the state, for the purpose of making the seizure aforesaid, and if any master, seaman, or other person, on board such ship or vessel, shall refuse or not suffer to enter, or resist before or after entering on board such ship or vessel, any justice of the peace, sheriff, or coroner, attempting to enter on board, or being already on board such ship or vessel, for the purpose of making such seizure as aforesaid, every person so refusing or resisting, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be punished by fine not less than one thousand, nor more than two thousand dollars, or imprisonment at hard labour not less than two, nor more than four years, or both at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 8. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be lawful for every person who shall have resided five years within this state, and who shall be about to remove permanently therefrom, to carry with him or her, every such slave as shall have been the property of such person, during five years next preceding: *Provided always*, that before such person shall attempt to carry away such slave, out of this state, he or she shall make satisfactory proof before the Court of Common Pleas, of the county in which he or she last resided, that such slave hath been his or her property during five years then next preceding; and shall also prove to the satisfaction of the said court, by the oath or affirmation of two credible witnesses, that such person intending to carry away such slave out of this state, hath resided within this state, five years next preceding, and that such slave hath been in the service or employ of such person, as a slave, during that time, and shall obtain from said court, a license under the seal of the court, to carry such slave out of this state; and *Provided also*, that such slave be of full age, and shall have consented to be carried out of this state, upon private examination before the presiding judge of said court, or in case of his absence, before any two other judges of the same, whose certificate of such consent shall be then and there produced to the court, before the granting of such license as aforesaid.

Sec. 9. *And be it enacted*, That every master of a vessel, who shall knowingly receive on board such vessel, for the purpose of carrying out of this state, any slave, for whose exportation a licence hath not been obtained, as herein before directed, or who having ignorantly received

such slave, shall suffer such slave to depart from his said vessel, in any place out of this state, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be punished by fine not less than one thousand, nor more than two thousand dollars, or imprisonment not less than two, nor more than four years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 10. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be lawful for any inhabitant of this state, going out of the same, on a journey to any other part of the United States, or for necessary business, to take with him or her any such slave or servant as aforesaid; but such inhabitant shall bring back such slave or servant, and in default thereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, shall be punished by fine not less than five hundred, nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not less than one year, nor more than two years, or both, at the discretion of the court; unless such inhabitant shall make proof, within six months after his or her return, to the satisfaction of two of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, of the county in which he or she shall reside, that every such slave or servant not brought back as aforesaid, could not be brought back by reason of some unavoidable accident; and unless such person shall forthwith file a certificate of having made such proof as aforesaid, signed by the said judges, in the office of the clerk of said county. And every slave or servant so taken out of this state, and not brought back as aforesaid, shall be free: *Provided* that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to authorize or allow the taking away such slave or servant in any ship or vessel going to sea.

Sec. 11. *And be it enacted*, That nothing herein contained shall be so construed, as to prevent the sending away or exporting out of this state, any slave who may be convicted and sentenced to transportation by virtue of the act entitled "A Supplement to the Act entitled an Act for the Punishment of Crimes," passed the eighteenth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, and which was passed the seventh of March, one thousand eight hundred and one.

Sect. 12. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be lawful for any person, not an inhabitant of this state, who shall be travelling to or from, or passing through this state, to bring with him or her any slave, and take such slave with him or her, from this state.

Sec. 13. *And be it enacted*, That the act entitled "An Act Supplemental to the act entitled an Act respecting Slaves;" passed the first day of February, one thousand eight hundred and twelve: and so much of any other act or acts as comes within the purview of this act, be, and the same is hereby repealed. *Provided always*, that such repeal shall in no wise affect or annul any indictment or other proceeding, had or to be had under the said act or acts, for offences against the same, but that the same shall and may be proceeded in and prosecuted to effect in regard to all or any offences heretofore committed against those acts, or any of them in the same way, as if this act had not been made.

Passed November 5, 1818.

<http://njlegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A85.html>

An Act for the relief of Baas Staats Bergen, Jan.26, 1837, Acts 61st G.A. 2nd sitting, p.72-73.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to the legislature that Baas Staats Bergen, a coloured man, of Somerville, in the county of Somerset, was formerly the slave of Hendrick Bergen, and after his death the slave of his wife; that the said slave bought his freedom of the widow of the said Hendrick Bergen, and took her receipt therefor; but that the said Baas was never manumitted according to law.--AND WHEREAS the said Baas, after he so obtained his freedom, and was considered a freeman, he purchased a lot of land, in Somerville, of John Tummy, and built a dwellinghouse thereon; that lately, and since the decease of the said John Tummy, his children have claimed the said lot of land from the said Baas, on the ground that he was not manumitted according to law-- AND WHEREAS the said Baas hath by his petition prayed that he may be declared by law entitled to all the rights and privileges of a free colored man of this state, and that the title of the said lot of land may be confirmed in him; and it being reasonable and just that the prayer of his petition should be granted--Therefore,

Sec. 1. BE IT ENACTED *by the Council and General Assembly of this state, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same*, That the deed of conveyance made and executed by Thomas Logan, of the county of Somerset, and state of New Jersey, attorney in fact, duly authorized by power of attorney executed by John Tummy, for a lot of land, situate in the village of Somerville, county of Somerset, and state of New Jersey, to the said Baas Staats Bergen, and recorded in the clerk's office of the county of Somerset, June thirteen, eighteen hundred and eighteen, in Book J of Deeds, folio one hundred and seventy-eight and one hundred and seventy-nine, by Samuel Swan, clerk, shall be deemed and taken to be valid, effectual, and operative as if the said Baas Staats Bergen had been a freeman at the time of the execution of the said deed of conveyance, had been duly manumitted according to the laws of this state.

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted*, That the said Baas Staats Bergen be, and he is hereby declared to be entitled to all the rights, privileges, and immunities of a free coloured man of this state.

Passed January 26, 1837.

<http://njlegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A93-7.html>

An Act to Abolish Slavery, revision approved April 18, 1846, *Revision of 1846*, Title XI,  
ch.6, p.382-390

1. BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That slavery in this state be and it is hereby abolished, and every person who is now holden in slavery by the laws thereof, be and hereby is made free, subject, however, to the restrictions and obligations hereinafter mentioned and imposed; and the children hereafter to be born to all such persons shall be absolutely free from their birth, and discharged of and from all manner of service whatsoever.

2. *And be it enacted*, That every such person shall, by force and virtue of this act, and without the previous execution of any indenture of apprenticeship, or other deed or instrument for that purpose, become and be an apprentice, bound to service to his or her present owner, and his or her executors or administrators; which service shall continue until such person is discharged therefrom, as is hereinafter directed.

3. *And be it enacted*, that it shall and may be lawful for every person who shall be entitled to the service of any such apprentice to discharge such apprentice from such service, by writing, under hand and seal, executed in the presence of at least one witness; *provided*, that such apprentice, at the time of such discharge being executed, shall be desirous of such discharge, and be sound in mind, and not under any incapacity of obtaining a support; *and provided also*, that the person entitled to the service of such apprentice shall, previous to the execution of such instrument of discharge, obtain a certificate, signed by the overseers of the poor and any two justices of the peace of the township wherein such person entitled shall reside, and also cause such certificate to be recorded in the office of the clerk of the county; for which service the said clerk shall be entitled to twelve cents; which certificate shall be in the words, or to the effect following:

\_\_\_\_\_ county, to wit:

We do hereby certify, that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. \_\_\_\_\_ A. B. of the township of \_\_\_\_\_ in the said county, brought before us, the overseers of the poor and two justices of the peace of the said township, an apprentice in his (or her) service, named \_\_\_\_\_ who declares before us that he (or she) is desirous of being discharged by virtue of an act entitled, " An act to abolish slavery," and who on view and examination appears to us to be sound in mind, and not under any incapacity of obtaining a support.—In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands, the day and year above written.

C. D. E. F. Overseers, &c.  
G. H. I. K. Justices, &c.

That upon such certificate being so signed and recorded, and such instrument or deed of discharge being so executed, such apprentice shall be discharged of and from all liability to or for any service or claim whatsoever ; and the person executing such discharge, shall be



exonerated and acquitted from all costs and charges which may arise for the support of such apprentice, except his or her proportion of any general tax or assessment therefor.

4. *And be it enacted*, That if any person entitled to the service of any such apprentice, shall, by his or her last Will and testament, give such discharge as aforesaid, and the said apprentice shall be desirous of such discharge, and be sound in mind, and not under any incapacity of obtaining a support, to be certified in manner aforesaid, then such discharge shall be good and effectual in law.

5. *And be it enacted*, That if any person entitled to the service of any apprentice bound to service by this act, other than such as is described in the two sections next preceding, be disposed to discharge such apprentice from service, and such person so entitled or any other sufficient person, for and in behalf of such apprentice, shall and do at the court of common pleas of the county where such apprentice shall reside, enter into bond to the state of New Jersey, with at least two sureties, being inhabitants and freeholders of and in the said county, to be approved by such court, in a sum not less than five hundred dollars, to prevent and keep any such apprentice from becoming or being a charge to any township, place or county in this state, then such apprentice shall be discharged of and from all liability to and for any such service; *provided*, that such discharge be in writing, signed and sealed in the presence of at least one witness: *and further*, that if any such apprentice of the description contained in this section, shall be discharged from service by the last will and testament of any person deceased, and if the executor or executors of such last will and testament, or, in case of the neglect or refusal of such executor or executors, if any other sufficient person, shall and do, within six months after proving the said last will and testament, enter into a bond, with sureties, and in manner aforesaid, then the said apprentice shall be discharged, according to the true intent and meaning of such last will and testament; but if, in any of the cases mentioned in this section, such bond be not entered into in the manner aforesaid, then the said discharge shall be absolutely void and of no effect.

6. *And be it enacted*, That all apprentices discharged by virtue of this act, shall be discharged and exonerated, after he or she arrives to the age of forty years, from the payment of any bond, note, or other contract, or performance of any indenture, that shall have been obtained against him or her in consequence of such discharge from service.

7. *And be it enacted*, That the legal settlement of every apprentice so discharged, who shall be likely to become a public charge, shall be in that township or place in this state where the person discharging him or her, may have a legal settlement at the time of such discharge; *provided*, that nothing in this section contained, shall be construed to prevent any apprentice so discharged, from afterwards gaining a legal settlement in any other township, in the same manner as other persons may gain a legal settlement by virtue of the existing laws of this state.

8. *And be it enacted*, That every person entitled to the service of such apprentice not discharged according to the directions of this act, his or her heirs, executors or administrators shall be obliged at all times to support and maintain such apprentice; *provided*, that if any

person entitled as aforesaid shall become insolvent and so unable to provide for such apprentice who shall, by sickness, or otherwise, be rendered incapable of supporting himself or herself then he or she shall be deemed to be a pauper, whose legal settlement shall follow the legal settlement in this state of him or her who was entitled to the service of such apprentice as aforesaid.

9. *And be it enacted*, That the children hereafter to be born of every such apprentice not discharged from service as aforesaid, shall be supported and maintained by the master or mistress of such apprentice until they shall attain the age of six years, when said children shall be bound out by the trustees or overseers of the poor, as in other cases of poor children; the master or mistress such apprentice, in the absence of any just objection, (of which said trustees or overseers shall judge), being first entitled to take such children under indentures from the said trustees or overseers; and the poor children of such apprentices as shall be legally discharged from service under this act, may likewise be bound out in like form and under like circumstances as other poor children; and the same rights, obligations and duties shall vest in, and be performed by the said trustees, overseers and justices acting in the premises, as provided for in other cases where they bind out poor children.

10. *And be it enacted*, That in case any instrument or deed, discharging such apprentice from service, shall be acknowledged by the party or parties who shall have executed the same, or be proved by one or more of the subscribing witnesses to it, that such party or parties signed, sealed and delivered the same, as his or her voluntary act and deed, before one of the officers authorized by law to take the acknowledgment or proof of deeds, and such certificate of such acknowledgment or proof shall be written under or upon such instrument or deed, and subscribed by the officer before whom made, then, and in that case, every such instrument or deed so acknowledged or proved and certified, shall be received in evidence in any court of this state, in like manner as if the same were then and there proved by one or more witnesses.

11. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the clerk of the court of common pleas of the county in which the person entitled to the services of such apprentice shall reside, at the time of discharging him or her, to record in a well bound book of good paper, to be provided for that purpose, and well preserved, every such instrument or deed acknowledged or proved, and certified as aforesaid, together with the acknowledgment or proof, and the certificate written on or under the same, which shall be delivered to him to be recorded; to which book every person shall have access at proper hours, and be entitled to transcripts from the same, on paying the fees allowed by law.

12. *And be it enacted*, That the record aforesaid of such instrument or deed, or a Copy of such record, certified to be a true copy by the clerk, in whose office the said record is kept, shall be received in evidence in any court of this state, and be as good, effectual, and available in law as if the original instrument of deed were then and there produced and proved.

13. *And be it enacted*, That the clerk shall deliver a receipt to the person who shall deliver to him any such instrument or deed as aforesaid mentioning therein the time when it was

delivered to him or brought to his office to be recorded, its date, and the names of the parties to it, and shall certify on or under the said instrument or deed the time it was received, and the name and number of the book, and page or pages in which it is recorded; and when recorded, shall deliver it to the party entitled to it, or to his or her order; and the said clerk shall be entitled to receive for recording every such instrument or deed, with the acknowledgment or proof and certificate, for every sheet five cents, and for every copy of the same five cents, and for every receipt six cents.

14. *And be it enacted*, That if any master or mistress, or other person entitled to the service of such apprentice or servant under this act, or under the act entitled, " An act for the gradual abolition of slavery, and other purposes respecting slaves," passed twenty-fourth February, eighteen hundred and twenty, shall be guilty of any misuse, refusal of necessary provision or clothing, unreasonable correction, cruelty or other ill treatment, so that his or her apprentice or servant shall have just cause of complaint, or if said apprentice or servant shall absent himself or herself from the service of his or her master or mistress, or be guilty of any misdemeanor, miscarriage or ill behavior, or do not his or her duty to his or her master or mistress, then the said master or mistress, or the said apprentice or servant being aggrieved and having just cause of complaint, shall be entitled to the like remedy, and similar proceedings shall be had therein, as is provided in like cases by the act entitled, " An act respecting apprentices and servants;" *provided*, that if such apprentice or servant shall be discharged upon his or her complaint, such discharge shall not exempt the master or mistress of such apprentice or servant from the support of said apprentice or servant, should he or she become unable to support himself or herself.

15. *And be it enacted*, That every person who shall counsel, persuade, entice, aid or assist any such apprentice or servant to run away or absent himself or herself from the service of his or her master or mistress, shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars, to be sued for and recovered by action of debt, with costs, by such master or mistress, in any court of record having cognizance thereof; and such person shall also be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine, of not less than one, nor more than two hundred dollars, or by imprisonment at hard labor, not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court before whom such conviction shall be had: *and further*, if any master, mistress, or other person entitled to the service of such apprentice or servant under this act, or under the act entitled, " An act for the gradual abolition of slavery, and other purposes respecting slaves," passed twenty-fourth February, eighteen hundred and twenty, shall be guilty of any misuse, refusal of necessary provision or clothing, unreasonable correction, cruelty or other ill treatment, he, she or such other person as aforesaid, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine, not exceeding one hundred dollars; *provided nevertheless, and be it enacted*, that if any master, mistress or other person as aforesaid, shall at the time when any complaint may be preferred against him or her, as is mentioned in the fourteenth section of this act, enter into recognizance to the state of New Jersey, with one good freeholder resident in the county, conditioned for his or her appearance before the next court of general quarter sessions of the peace to be holden in and for the county in which such master or mistress, or other person as aforesaid, may reside, to

answer any complaint which may then and there be made against him or her for any of the matters specified in this section, that then the justice before whom such complaint may have been made shall discharge such complaint, and the provisions of the fourteenth section of this act shall be deemed inoperative touching said complaint.

16. *And be it enacted*, That every person who shall entertain, harbor or conceal any such apprentice or servant, knowing such apprentice or servant to have run away, shall forfeit and pay one dollar for every day's entertaining, harboring or concealing as aforesaid, to be sued for and recovered by action of debt, with costs, by such master or mistress, in any court of record having cognizance thereof.

17. *And be it enacted*, That no person shall hereafter sell or in any wise dispose of any apprentice bound to service by virtue of this act, or of any interest or right in and to the service of such apprentice except in writing, and with the consent of said apprentice expressed by his or her signature thereto; nor shall such sale be made upon any pretence whatsoever to any person not a citizen and resident of this state.

18. *And be it enacted*, That no such sale as is mentioned in the section next preceding, shall operate to release or discharge their estate of the person making such sale from the support and maintenance of such apprentice in the event of the purchaser at the time of said sale being insolvent, and the said apprentice being rendered incapable from sickness or other cause of supporting himself or herself; but the person making such sale, his or her heirs, executors and administrators shall be and remain liable for such support and maintenance in the same manner as he, she or they would have been had no such sale been made.

19. *And be it enacted*, that no apprentice or servant under this act, or under the act entitled, "An act for the gradual abolition of slavery, and other purposes respecting slaves," passed February twenty-fourth, eighteen hundred and twenty, shall hereafter be removed, exported or carried out of this state except as hereinafter provided.

20. *And be it enacted*, That if any person shall send to sea or export, or attempt to send to sea or export from this state, or send or carry out of, or attempt to send or carry out of this state, except as hereinafter provided, any such apprentice or servant, every person so exporting, or attempting to export, or sending or carrying out of this state, or attempting to send or carry out of this state, such apprentice or servant, and his or her aiders or abettors, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction in due course of law, shall be punished by fine not less than one thousand dollars, nor more than two thousand dollars or imprisonment at hard labor, for any term not less than two years, nor more than four years, or both, at the discretion of the court before whom such conviction shall be had; and every such apprentice or servant so exported or carried out of this state, or attempted to be exported or carried out of this state, or sent to sea, shall be thereafter discharged from all further service whatsoever.

21. *And be it enacted*, That if any person shall hereafter sell, transfer or assign any such apprentice or servant, or the services of such, to any non-resident, or person not being an

inhabitant of this state, or to any person intending to remove, or export, or earn such apprentice or servant out of this state, every person so knowingly selling, transferring or assigning such apprentice or servant, or the services of such, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction shall be punished by fine not less than five hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment at hard labor, not less than one year nor more than two years, or both, at the discretion of the court before whom such conviction shall be had; and every such apprentice or servant so sold, transferred or assigned, or whose services are so, to any non-resident, or person not being an inhabitant of this state, or to any person intending to remove, or export, or carry away such apprentice or servant out of this state, shall be thereafter discharged from all further service whatsoever.

22. *And be it enacted*, That if any person shall purchase or take a transfer or assignment of any such apprentice or servant, or the services of such, with a design or intent to export, or send, or earn such apprentice or servant out of this state, such person shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be punished by fine not less than one thousand dollars nor more than two thousand dollars, or by imprisonment at hard labor, not less than two nor more than four years, or both, at the discretion of the court before whom such conviction shall be had; and such apprentice or servant so purchased, transferred or assigned, or whose services are so, shall be thereafter discharged from all further service whatsoever.

23. *And be it enacted*, That every master of a ship or other vessel, who shall knowingly receive on board any ship or other vessel of which he is master, for the purpose of carrying out of this state any such apprentice or servant, or who, having ignorantly received on board of said ship or other vessel such apprentice or servant, shall suffer such apprentice or servant to depart from his ship or other vessel, in any place out of this state, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by fine, not less than one thousand nor more than two thousand dollars, or imprisonment at hard labor, not less than two nor more than four years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

24. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be lawful for any inhabitant of this state, going out of the same on a journey to any other part of the United States, or for necessary business, to take with him or her any such apprentice or servant as aforesaid; but it shall be the duty of such inhabitant to bring back such apprentice or servant, and in default thereof he or she shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, shall be punished by fine not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment at hard labor, not less than one year nor more than two years, or both, at the discretion of the court before whom the conviction shall be had, unless such inhabitant shall make proof, within six months after his or her return, to the satisfaction of two of the judges of the court of common pleas, of the county in which he or she shall reside, that such apprentice or servant not brought back as aforesaid, could not be brought back, by reason of some unavoidable accident, and obtain a certificate thereof, subscribed by the two judges before whom such proof shall be made, and file the same in the office of the clerk of the said county; and every such apprentice or servant so taken out of this state, and not brought back as aforesaid, shall be thereafter discharged from all manner of service whatsoever; *provided nevertheless*, that nothing herein contained shall be construed

to authorize or allow the taking away such apprentice or servant in any ship or vessel going to sea.

25. *And be it enacted*, That in case any person who shall be discharged from service by virtue of the provisions of the twentieth, twenty-first, twenty-second or twenty-fourth sections of this act, shall become incapable by reason of sickness or other cause, of maintaining himself or herself, the former master or mistress of such person shall be and remain liable for his or her support and maintenance, in the same manner as they would have been had such person not been discharged.

26. *And be it enacted*, That when any habeas corpus shall be brought to remove any such apprentice or servant out of the possession or custody of any person or persons claiming the service of such apprentice or servant, the person or persons to whom the said habeas corpus is directed, may, in the return to the same writ, aver and set forth, that he, she or they has or have lawful right to the personal service of the said apprentice or servant; whereupon the prosecutor shall instantly join issue by denying the right of the defendant or defendants to the personal service of such apprentice or servant, and immediately upon the joinder of the said issue, the court shall award a venire facias to the sheriff or coroners, as the case may require, of the county in which such party defendant resides, commanding him or them to summon a jury to appear at the next circuit court to be held in such county for the trial of the issue so joined as aforesaid.

27. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be lawful for any person not an inhabitant of this state, who shall be travelling to or from or passing through this state, or coming into this state from any other of the United States, and having a temporary residence in this state, to bring with him or any slave or servant, and on removal or leaving this state, to take such slave or servant out of this state, *provided*, that the number of such slaves or servants shall not exceed the usual number of personal or household slaves or servants kept and maintained by said traveller or temporary resident.