

they may fail to hire or indenture, because of their extreme old age or disability of any kind, and for any female and her issues whom they may be unable to hire because of the incumbrances of said issues, and which said issues may not be subject to hire by said board under the provisions of this act, which said fund shall be subtracted from the gross amounts of the hire-bonds executed for the services as aforesaid free negroes, and the said sum shall be subtracted as well from the bonds of such free negroes who shall annually hire themselves to labor and service as from the bonds of such free negroes who may be hired by the said commissioners. CHAP. 232.

SEC. 10. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of said board of commissioners to collect by suit or otherwise, the amount stipulated in each bond, and report the same annually to the county commissioners with a statement of all the expenses attending the operation of this act, including attorney and clerks' fees, constables, auctioneers and commissioners' charges with the vouchers thereof, also the amount necessary to support those incapable of being hired or bound under the provisions of this act, and the said county commissioners after deducting the same from the gross amount of the hire-bonds shall direct the said commissioners to pay the balance due to the aforesaid hired free negroes in proportion to the amount stipulated for in each bond, which said payment shall be made in the presence of some justice of the peace, who shall certify to the payment of the same, and the said certificate shall be filed in the aforesaid clerk's office in satisfaction of said bond, and the said county commissioners shall further direct the said board of commissioners to distribute the funds provided for the aforesaid purposes among the said free negroes of their respective districts, to whom such fund is appropriated by this act as in their judgment and discretion shall be most proper and equitable. Bonds—how collected, &c.

SEC. 11. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the said board of commissioners to make an annual report of such free negroes as may be brought before them, together with a full description of their ages, names and sex, and in case of minors the names of their parents, which report shall be recorded in the clerks office of the Circuit Annual reports.