

CHAP. 5. Assembly, passed for the benefit of insolvent debtors, passed December session, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, shall be considered in full force, and shall take effect from the passage thereof.

CHAPTER 5.

Passed Jan. 27, 1840. *An act to encourage the emigration of the free people of color of this State.*

Lawful to re-
turn again. SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That it shall and may be lawful for any free colored male or female of this State, who may visit the Island of Trinidad or British Guiana, with a view of ascertaining whether said places, or either of them, are suitable for the emigration and settlement of themselves or other free persons of color, to return to this State and reside therein, in the same manner as though he or she had never been absent from the same; *provided,* said colored persons do not remain out of the State more than eighteen months; *and provided also,* said negro or mulatto shall first satisfy the orphans' court of the county where he or she shall reside, that said free person of color is visiting the said places for the purpose aforesaid.

Orphans' court
to issue license. SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the orphans' court, upon being satisfied that such free persons of color intend visiting the places aforesaid, for the object aforesaid, to issue a license to said person of color under the seal of said court, granting the permission herein allowed; and it shall also be the duty of said court, to cause a record of such license to be kept, and to make an annual return thereof to the legislature.

If detained, &c. SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That if such free colored person shall be detained more than eighteen months by any sufficient or unavoidable cause, and the said orphans' court shall be satisfied of the fact, then it shall be lawful for said free colored person to return and settle in this State, and the said orphans' court shall grant to said person a license to that effect.