

LAWS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND 1867

CHAPTER 189

Passed March 22, 1867

An ACT to provide by law for taking and perpetuating the evidence of the number of persons held to labor and service in the State of Maryland and emancipated by the Constitution adopted in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and by whom such person were so held.

Preamble

Whereas, by a joint resolution approved April tenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, Congress resolved that the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid to be used by such State in its discretion to compensate for the inconvenience, public and private, produced by such change of system; and whereas, by the twenty-fourth day of February eighteen hundred and sixty four, provision was made for enrolling all able bodied male colored persons residing in the United States as a part of the national forces, and for awarding to such loyal persons to whom a colored volunteer might owe service, a just compensation not exceeding three hundred dollars for each colored volunteer, and under said provisions, and previous therein, under the Military authority of the United States, a large number of slaves owing service to loyal citizens of Maryland, were induced to leave their owners and enlist in the military service of the United States or was received on board of steamers under the command of the said military and carried away farom the service of said owners by said military, so that their service was totally lost to said owners, and very few of the said loyal owners have ever received any compensation for slave volunteers so enlisted or for service so lost; and whereas, by the that their service so that their service was totally lost to said owners, and very few of the said loyal owners have ever received any compensation for slave volunteers so enlisted or for service so lost; and whereas, by the twenty-fourth Article of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution of this State, which went into full operation on the first day of November, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, all persons held to service or labor as slaves in the State were thereby declared to be free; and whereas, no compensation for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such changes of system had been made by giving to this State pecuniary aid according to the faith of the

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