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1856 November 19: General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, A bill for the return of runaway slaves

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A Bill to be entitled An Act concerning runaway Slaves

Act 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas. That for the apprehension and delivery of any runaway Slave to the Master or owner of such Slave, or to the Sheriff a Jailer of the county in which such Slave may be apprehended, the person so apprehending and delivering shall be entitled to receive from the Master a bond of such Slave the sum of five dollars, and ~~ten~~ ^{five} Cents for every mile of the distance he shall necessarily travel in carrying such Slave to the Master a owner, the Sheriff a Jailer aforesaid.

Sec 2. When a higher reward shall have been offered for the apprehension of any Slave than the sum of five dollars and the amount of travelling fees mentioned in the preceding section the person ^{so} apprehending shall be entitled to receive such reward, ^{not} to charge Mileage in addition thereto.

Sec 3. All runaway Slaves delivered to any Jailer a Sheriff shall, when in the opinion of such Sheriff a Jailer it can be done safely, be put out to work during the day time, and all the proceeds of the labor of such Slave be appropriated to paying the expense of his apprehension and Jail fees.

A Bill Concerning
Runaway Slaves

June 19th
Read 1st time
over 30th 22d time
Vote for passage
done

Shawyer

Sec 4. When any Sheriff or Jailor shall employ any runaway slave in any labour for himself, he shall account to the owner or Master of such slave for the value of such labour, or in the event of the sale of such slave he shall account to the County Court for the same.

Sec 5. The feeding any runaway slave while in the custody of any Sheriff or Jailor, or ~~or~~ a slave confined in prison or placed in the custody of any Sheriff or Jailor for any cause, such Sheriff or Jailor shall be entitled to charge one dollar and fifty Cents per week therefor, and no more unless in cases of sickness.

Sec 6. No Sheriff or Jailor shall permit any runaway slave to remain out of prison or at large during the night, and for the escape of any runaway slave from neglect of any Sheriff or Jailor to confine and keep secure such runaway slave during the night, such Sheriff or Jailor shall be held responsible liable to the owner of such slave for the value thereof.

Sec 7. All acts and parts of acts now in force contrary to the provisions of this act shall be and they are hereby repealed.

Sec 8. This act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.