

*An Act to inflict further and other Punishments on runaway Slaves, and such as shall entertain them.* 1749.

WHEREAS great Numbers of Negroe and other Slaves have of late run away from the Service of their Owners or Employers, and have taken Shelter in the Towns or other Places; and whereas, by their long and frequent Desertion, great Encouragement is given to others to follow their Example, which may prove of dangerous Consequence to this Island, if not timely prevented; and whereas the Punishments hitherto inflicted by Law for such Offences have not proved effectual: In order therefore to remedy the like Inconveniencies for the future, and to deter others from running away, and also to prevent their being harboured or entertained, may it please your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted; be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of this your Majesty's Island of *Jamaica*, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, That every Negroe or other Slave, of the Age of Eighteen Years, or upwards, born in this Island, or that has been, or shall be imported into this Island, and that hath, or shall reside in the same for the Space of three Years after such Importation, that shall run away, or absent him or herself from the Service of his or her Owner or Employer, without the Consent of such Owner or Employer, for the Space of six Calendar Months, shall be tried in such Manner and Form as other Slaves in this Island are usually tried for capital Offences; and on due Proof and Conviction thereof shall suffer Death, or such other Punishment as shall be inflicted by the Justices and Freeholders, or the major Part of them, one of which to be a Justice.

Act 159.  
Vol. I.

Punishment  
of Slaves run  
away Six  
Months.

II.\* PROVIDED always, and it is the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, That no Owner or Owners of any such runaway Negroe, or other Slave, who may be convicted and suffer Death, as aforesaid, shall be paid the Value of such Negroe or other Slave, but that the Loss thereof shall fall upon the Owner of such Negroe or other Slave; any Thing in this Act contained, or any Law, Custom, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Proviso.

III AND be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all such Negroe or other Slaves, as aforesaid, that shall be run away at the Time of the passing of this Act, and that shall continue to absent themselves for the Space of six Months, shall be tried and punished in like Manner as Negroe and other Slaves, who shall run away after the passing of this Law, and absent themselves for so long Time.

IV. AND be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Negroe, *Indian* or *Mulatto* Slave, shall harbour, conceal, or entertain any runaway Negroe or other Slave, knowing him or her to be such, every such Negroe, *Indian* or *Mulatto* Slave, so harbouring, concealing, or entertaining any such Runaway, shall be tried in Manner aforesaid; and, on due Proof and Conviction thereof, shall suffer Death, or such other Punishment as the two Justices and three Freeholders, or the major Part of them, of which one to be a Justice, shall adjudge.

Punishment  
of Slaves, &c.  
harbouring  
Runaways.

V. PROVIDED, That no Negroe, *Indian* or *Mulatto* Slave shall be punished, by virtue of this Act, for harbouring, concealing, or entertaining any runaway Slave, unless Prosecution for the same be commenced within one Month after the Discovery of the said Offence.

Proviso.

VI. PROVIDED also, That no Negroe or other Slave, shall be punished, by virtue of of this Act, for running away, or absenting him or herself from the Service, of his or her Owner or Employer, unless Prosecution for such

Proviso.

\* Vide Act 163. Cl. 7. Vol. 1.

1749. Offence be commenced within three Months after his or her being taken or returned to his or her Owner or Employer.

VII. AND be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Secretary of this Island do cause this Act forthwith to be printed, and Twenty Copies thereof sent to the *Custos*, or Chief Magistrate, of the respective Parishes of this Island, who are to take the most effectual Method of making it publick.

*An Act to amend an Act, entituled, An Act to repeal Part of an Act, entituled, An Act for the more effectual Punishment of Crimes committed by Slaves, and to oblige the several Parishes to pay for all Negroes executed in each respective Parish.*

Act 163.  
Vol. I.

Repeal of Cl. I.  
Act 122. The  
latter part  
only.

WHEREAS, by an Act of the Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Island, entituled, *An Act to repeal Part of an Act, entituled, An Act for the more effectual Punishment of Crimes committed by Slaves; and to oblige the several Parishes to pay for all Negroes executed in each respective Parish*, passed in One thousand seven hundred and forty, it is among other Things enacted, That in all Cases where any Slave or Slaves shall, from the making of the said Act, be put on his, her, or their Trial, by the Owner or Proprietor of such Slave or Slaves, and shall be executed and valued according to the Direction of the said Act for the more effectual Punishment of Crimes committed by Slaves; that, in all such Cases, the sum or Sums of Money at which such Slave or Slaves shall be valued, shall be paid by the respective Parish or Parishes wherein such Slave or Slaves shall be so tried, valued, and executed, and no otherwise: And whereas there are in several of the Precincts of this Island two or more Parishes, which are within the Jurisdiction of the same Magistrates acting under the same Commission, whereby it hath often happened, that Slaves, committing Crimes in one Parish, have been tried and executed for the same in another Parish, and have been likewise valued in such other Parish; whereby it hath happened that the Parish in which such Trial, Valuation, and Execution was had, done, and made, hath been greatly burdened: For Remedy whereof, be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of this his Majesty's Island; and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, That such Part, and so much of the said first mentioned Act, as is herein before recited, be, and the same is hereby annulled and repealed, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

Slaves convicted, to be paid for by the Parish where the Crime was committed.

II. AND be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all Cases where any Slave or Slaves shall, from the passing of this Act, be put on his or her Trial, by the Owner or Proprietor of such Slave or Slaves, and shall be valued and executed according to the Direction of the said Act, for the effectual Punishment of Crimes committed by Slaves, such Slave or Slaves shall be paid for by the Parish in which the Crime for which such Slave or Slaves were tried and executed, was committed.

Also those formerly executed, &c.

III. BE it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Slaves that have heretofore been tried, valued, and executed, for Crimes committed in Parishes, other than the Parishes wherein such Slaves were tried, valued, and executed, and have not been already paid for, according to such Valuation, by the Parishes in which they were so tried, valued, and executed, shall be paid for by the Parishes in which the Crime for which such Slaves were tried and executed, was committed; any thing in the said first mentioned Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

IV. Be