

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

**A. D. 1843.**

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*AUGUSTA:*

WM. R. SMITH & Co., PRINTERS TO THE STATE.



1843.

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TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

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No. 37.]

[HOUSE.

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A N A C T

IN

RELATION TO SLAVERY.

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[Wm. R. SMITH & Co....Printers to the State.]



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# STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND  
FORTY-THREE.

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AN ACT more effectually to protect the free citizens of  
this State, from being kidnapped or reduced to Sla-  
very.

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
tives in Legislature assembled—as follows :*

3 SECTION 1. Whenever the governor of this State  
4 shall receive information satisfactory to him, that any  
5 free citizen or any inhabitant of this State, has been  
6 kidnapped and transported away out of this State, in-  
7 to any other State, or territory of the United States,  
8 for the purpose of being there held in slavery, or that  
9 such free citizen or inhabitant is wrongfully seized,  
10 imprisoned or held in slavery in any of the States or  
11 territories of the United States on the allegation or  
12 pretence that such person is a slave, or by color of  
13 any usage or rule of law, prevailing in such State or  
14 territory, is deemed or taken to be a slave or not en-  
15 titled of right to the personal liberty belonging to a

16 citizen, it shall be the duty of the said governor to  
17 take such measures as he shall deem necessary to pro-  
18 cure such person to be restored to his liberty and  
19 returned to this State. The governor is hereby au-  
20 thorized to appoint and employ such agent or agents  
21 as he shall deem necessary, to effect the restoration  
22 and return of such person, and shall furnish said agent  
23 with such credentials and instructions as will be likely  
24 to accomplish the object of his appointment. The  
25 governor may determine the compensation to be  
26 allowed to such agent for his services, besides his  
27 necessary expenses.

SEC. 2. Such agent shall proceed to collect the  
2 proper proof, to establish the right of such person to  
3 his freedom, and shall perform such journeys, take  
4 such measures, institute and procure to be prosecuted  
5 such legal proceedings under the direction of the gov-  
6 ernor, as shall be necessary to procure such person to  
7 be restored to his liberty and returned to this State.

SEC. 3. The accounts for all services and expenses  
2 incurred in carrying this act into effect shall be audit-  
3 ed by the governor and council, and paid by the treas-  
4 urer, on the warrant of the governor, out of any mo-  
5 neys in the treasury of this State not otherwise appro-  
6 priated. The treasurer may advance on the warrant  
7 of the governor to such agent, such sum or sums, as  
8 the governor may think necessary, to enable him to  
9 accomplish the purpose of his appointment, for which

10 advance such agent shall account, on the final audit  
11 of his warrant.

SEC. 4. This act shall take effect, and be in force  
2 as soon as it shall be approved by the governor.

**STATE OF MAINE.**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 25, 1843. }

Laid upon the table, and 300 copies ordered to be printed for  
the use of the Legislature.

**WM. T. JOHNSON, Clerk.**