

State of Maine

In the year of our Lord, One thousand, Eight hundred & Forty four.

An act more fully to protect the colored citizens of Maine.

Whereas, by the constitution of the United States no state has the right in any manner to interfere with the system of slavery as it exists in many of the states in this Union; and whereas the constitution of this state, recognizes the great principle that all men are born free and equal, and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and whereas it is most desirable to carry out in practice, these fundamental principles, on which the people have based the government of this state.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled as follows.

Section 1st That from and after the passage of this act, it shall be deemed

unlawful and a high misdemeanor, for any judicial Officer, any justice of the peace, Coroner, Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, jailer or other Executive Officer of this State in any manner to interfere with any person who may have escaped from Slavery, into this State for, or on account of such person being a fugitive from Slavery.

Section 2. All precepts issued by any judge of any judicial court of this State, or by any justice of the peace, for the arrest of any alleged fugitive Slave, shall be utterly null and void. And any judicial officer or justice of the peace who shall issue such precept, and any executive Officer who shall undertake to serve the same, shall be subject to indictment in the Supreme judicial Court or district Court, within the district where such offence is committed, and if convicted thereon, be fined in a sum not less than two hundred, and not exceeding one thousand dollars.

Section 3. No jail in this State shall be used, under any pretence to confine any fugitive Slave, or such, or any person who has escaped from Slavery, for that cause. And any Sheriff, jailer or deputy jailer, who shall receive and confine, any fugitive Slave

for the reason that he is such, or any person
escaping from Slavery, for that cause, shall
forthwith be removed from Office, and shall
be subject to indictment in the Supreme
Judicial Court, or district court in the
district where the offence is committed,
and on conviction shall be fined in a sum
not less than Two, nor more than Five
thousand dollars.

Section 4. Hereafter, the use
of the jails in this State, shall not be
granted to the United States for the
purpose of confining any fugitive
Slave or person escaping from Slavery
when confined for that cause

85

Bill.

30

An act more
fully to protect
the colored citizens
of Maine.

House of Representatives

Jan 12. 1844

Referred to the committee
on the Judiciary. Sent
up for concurrence
Mr. Spencer Cab

In Senate Jan. 13 1844

concurred.

Sam Haskell

Secy.

R. F. Parker

State of Maine.

THE Committee *on the Judiciary*
to whom was referred ~~the~~ *praying that* ~~Petition of~~
an Act more fully to protect the
Citizens of Maine

have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to
Report, that the ~~Petitioner~~ *have leave to bring in a*
~~which is herewith submitted.~~

Bill ought not to pass

C. C. Sawtelle Chairman.

In Senate, Jan. 19 1844

Read and accepted.

Sent down for concurrence.

Saml Haskell Secretary.

In House of Representatives, Mar 11 1844

Read and concurred.

Wm. Johnson Clerk.

In dictary.
Report on Bill more
fully to protect the
colored citizens of Maine.

House of Representatives
Jan 20, 1844

Referred to the select
Committee having under
consideration the petition of
Moses Emery and others
Wm. T. Johnson
Clerk

Jan 20 - table.
ref to Mr. Emery.

In dictary.
Report on Bill more
~~effectually~~

State of Maine.

^{Libert}
THE Committee of the House of Representatives
to which was referred the ~~Petition of~~: *A Bill*
entitled An act more fully to protect the praying that
colored citizens of Maine

have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to
Report, that the ~~Petitioner~~ have leave to bring in a *Memorandum*
laws are sufficient which is herewith submitted. *Protect the*
colored citizens of Maine, that the passage of
said Bill into a law is therefore not necessary.
they therefore recommend that the House accept
the Report of the Committee on the Chairman.
Judiciary in concurrence
J. C. Woodman Chairman

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Mar 11 1844

Read and accepted.

~~Sent up for concurrence.~~

W. F. Johnson

Clerk.

IN SENATE,

18

Read and concurred.

Secretary,

Secretary

Read and consulted.

RECEIVED

Clerk

Send up for concurrence.

Read and accepted.

SEVENTEENTH FEBRUARY 1851

Received of the Committee on Education

Select Committee
of the House -
Report on the Bill
more fully to protect
the colored citizens
of Maine -

Ought not to pass

to which was referred the Petition of
The Committee
on Education
which they have
reported to the House
of Representatives
of the United States
in the 31st Congress
2d Session

Journal of the House