

at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day, and then and there proceed to make an allotment between the said three townships of such poor persons as shall then be chargeable upon the townships of Roxbury and Pequannock; and that the township of Jefferson shall take and receive of the said townships of Roxbury and Pequannock, all such poor persons as may be reasonable for them to take, in proportion to the taxable property contained within their respective limits, and that the said township of Jefferson shall be entitled to receive from the said townships of Roxbury and Pequannock their equal proportion of all monies which hath been raised in said townships for the support of the poor, and remains unexpended at the time of such division; *Provided*, That if either of the committees chosen as aforesaid, shall neglect to meet as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for such committee as shall meet, to proceed to such distribution of the poor, and such other business as is by this act prescribed and intended to be done.

Monies raised for the poor to be divided.

Proviso.

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AN ACT for the gradual abolition of slavery.

*Passed February 15, 1804.*

Sec. 1. BE IT ENACTED *by the council and general assembly of this state, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That every child born of a slave within this state, after the fourth day of July next, shall be free; but shall remain the servant of the owner of his or her mother, and the executors, administrators or assigns of such owner, in the same manner as if such child had been bound

Every child born of a slave after the fourth of July next to be free, but to remain servants until, males 25, & females 21 years of age.

to service by the trustees or overseers of the poor, and shall continue in such service, if a male, until the age of twenty-five years, and if a female until the age of twenty-one years.

The person entitled to the service of such child to deliver to the clerk of the county a certificate, &c.

2. *And be it enacted,* That every person, being an inhabitant of this state, who shall be entitled to the service of a child born as aforesaid, after the said fourth day of July next, shall within nine months after the birth of such child, cause to be delivered to the clerk of the county whereof such person shall be an inhabitant, a certificate in writing, containing the name and addition of such person, and the name, age and sex of the child so born; which certificate, whether the same be delivered before or after the said nine months, shall be by the said clerk recorded in a book to be by him provided for that purpose; and such record thereof shall be good evidence of the age of such child; and the clerk of such county shall receive from said person twelve cents for every child so registered: and if any person shall neglect to deliver such certificate to the said clerk within the said nine months, such person shall forfeit and pay for every such offence, five dollars, and the further sum of one dollar for every month such person shall neglect to deliver the same, to be sued for and recovered by any person who will sue for the same, the one half to the use of such prosecutor, and the residue to the use of the poor of the township in which such delinquent shall reside.

Clerk to record such certificate.

Penalty for not delivering the certificate to the clerk.

Children born as aforesaid may be abandoned

3. *And be it enacted,* That the person entitled to the service of any child born as aforesaid, may, nevertheless, within one year after the birth of such child, elect to abandon such right; in which case a notification of such



abandonment, under the hand of such person, shall be filed with the clerk of the township, or where there may be a county poor-house established, then with the clerk of the board of trustees of said poor-house of the county in which such person shall reside ; but every child so abandoned shall be maintained by such person until such child arrives at the age of one year, and thereafter shall be considered as a pauper of such township or county, and liable to be bound out by the trustees or overseers of the poor in the same manner as other poor children are directed to be bound out, until, if a male, the age of twenty-five, and if a female, the age of twenty-one ; and such child, while such pauper, until it shall be bound out, shall be maintained by the trustees or overseers of the poor of such county or township, as the case may be, at the expense of this state ; and for that purpose the director of the board of chosen freeholders of the county is hereby required, from time to time, to draw his warrant on the treasurer in favor of such trustees or overseers for the amount of such expense, not exceeding the rate of three dollars per month ; provided the accounts for the same be first certified and approved by such board of trustees, or the town-committee of such township ; and every person who shall omit to notify such abandonment as aforesaid, shall be considered as having elected to retain the service of such child, and be liable for its maintenance until the period to which its servitude is limited as aforesaid.

In what manner.

See act of March 8, 1806. Comp. 106;

How to be maintained and disposed of.

See act of 22th Feb. 1811. Comp. 109;