

ACTS

PASSED AT THE SESSION BEGUN AND HELD AT BOSTON,
ON THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF MAY, A. D. 1703.*

CHAPTER 1.

AN ACT RELATING TO MOLATO AND NEGRO SLAVES.

WHEREAS great charge and inconveniences have arisen to divers towns and places, by the releasing and setting at liberty molato and negro slaves; for prevention whereof for the future,—

Be it declared and enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

[SECT. 1.] That no molato or negro slave shall hereafter be manumitted, discharged or set free, until sufficient security be given to the treasurer of the town or place where such person dwells, in a valuable sum, not less than fifty pounds, to secure and indemnify the town or place from all charge for or about such molato or negro, to be manumitted and set at liberty, in case he or she by sickness, lameness, or otherwise, be rendered uncapable to support him- or herself.

Security to be given for molattoes or negroes set free.
4 Mass. 123, 129.

[SECT. 2.] And no molato or negro hereafter manumitted shall be deemed or accounted free, for whom security shall not be given as aforesaid, but shall be the proper charge of their respective masters or mistresses, in case they stand in need of relief and support, notwithstanding any manumission or instrument of freedom to them made or given, and shall also be liable at all times to be put forth to service by the selectmen of the town. [*Passed July 28; published July 31.*]

None to be accounted free for whom security is not given.

CHAPTER 2.

AN ACT FOR FURTHER CONTINUING OF SEVERAL ACTS THAT ARE NEAR EXPIRING.

WHEREAS the act intituled "An Act for giving necessary supplies to the eastern Indians, and for regulating of trade with them," passed by the general assembly of this province, in the eleventh year of the reign of his late majesty King William the Third, the act intituled "An Act for punishing of officers and souldiers who shall mutiny or desert his majesty's service," the act intituled "An Act to prevent the deserting of the frontiers of this province," both made and passed by the general assembly, in the twelfth year of his said late majesty's reign, are near expiring, and will determin at the end of this present session

* Continued, by adjournment, from the eighth day of June unto the thirtieth day of June, following.