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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 22, 1864.

Mr. SUMNER, from the Select Committee on Slavery and Freedmen, reported the following bill; which was read and passed to a second reading.

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**A BILL**

To prohibit commerce in slaves among the several States, and the holding or transportation of human beings as property in any vessel within the jurisdiction of the national government.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That there shall be no commerce in slaves among the several  
4       States, by land or by water; and any person attempting or  
5       aiding to transport slaves, as an article of commerce, from  
6       one State to another State, or any person who shall take  
7       part in such commerce, either as seller, buyer, or agent, shall  
8       be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and being convicted  
9       thereof before any court having competent jurisdiction, shall  
10      suffer imprisonment for not more than five years, and be  
11      fined not exceeding five thousand dollars, one-half of such  
12      fine to go to the informer; and every slave so treated as an  
13      an article of commerce among States shall be free.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That no human being  
2 shall be held or transported as property in any vessel on the  
3 high seas, or sailing coastwise, or on any navigable waters  
4 within the jurisdiction of the United States; and every vessel  
5 violating the provisions of this act shall be forfeited to the  
6 United States; and every master of such vessel consenting to  
7 such violation shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and  
8 on conviction thereof subject to the penalties hereinbefore  
9 provided, one-half of the fine to go to the informer; and  
10 every human being so held or transported as property shall  
11 be free.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all acts or parts  
2 of acts inconsistent herewith, including especially so much of  
3 an act approved March second, one thousand eight hundred  
4 and seven, as regulates the coastwise slave trade, are hereby  
5 repealed.



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