

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 28, 1862.

Mr. WRIGHT asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, and ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

A BILL

Abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That no person not now within the District of Columbia, nor
4 now owned by any person or persons now resident within it,
5 nor hereafter born within it, shall ever be held in slavery
6 within said District.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That no person now
2 within said District, or now owned by any person or persons
3 now resident within the same, or hereafter born within it,
4 shall ever be held in slavery without the limits of said Dis-
5 trict: *Provided,* That officers of the government of the United
6 States, being citizens of the slaveholding States, coming into
7 said District on public business, and remaining only so long
8 as may be reasonably necessary for that object, may be at-

9 tended into and out of said District, and while there, by the
10 necessary servants of themselves and their families without
11 their right to hold such servants in service being thereby im-
12 paired.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all children
2 born of slave mothers within said District on or after the first
3 day of , in the year of our Lord one thousand
4 eight hundred and sixty-two, shall be free, but shall be
5 reasonably supported and educated by the respective owners
6 of their mothers, or by their heirs or representatives, and
7 shall serve reasonable service as apprentices to such owners,
8 heirs, and representatives, until they respectively arrive at
9 the age of twenty-one years, when they shall be entirely
10 free; and the municipal authorities of Washington and
11 Georgetown, within their respective jurisdictional limits, are
12 hereby empowered and required to make all suitable and
13 necessary provisions for enforcing obedience to this section
14 on the part of both masters and apprentices.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That all persons now
2 within said District lawfully held as slaves, or now owned
3 by any person or persons now resident within said District,
4 shall remain such at the will of their respective owners,
5 their heirs and legal representatives: *Provided,* That any
6 such owner, or his legal representatives, may at any time
7 receive from the treasury of the United States the full value

8 of his or her slave of the class in this section mentioned;
9 upon which such slave shall be forthwith and forever free:
10 *And provided, further,* That the President of the United
11 States, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of the
12 Treasury, shall be a board for determining the value of such
13 slaves as their owners may desire to emancipate under this
14 section, and whose duty it shall be to hold a session for the
15 purpose on the first Monday of each calendar month; to re-
16 ceive all applications, and, on satisfactory evidence in each
17 case that the person presented for valuation is a slave, and
18 of the class in this section mentioned, and is owned by the
19 applicant, shall value such slave at his or her full cash value,
20 and give to the applicant an order on the treasury for the
21 amount, and also to such slave a certificate of freedom.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the municipal
2 authorities of Washington and Georgetown, within their
3 respective jurisdictional limits, are hereby empowered and
4 required to provide active and efficient means to arrest and
5 deliver up to their owners all fugitive slaves escaping into
6 said District.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the election
2 officers within said District of Columbia are hereby em-
3 powered and required to open polls at all the usual places of
4 holding elections on the first Monday of April next, and
5 receive the vote of every free white male citizen above the

6 age of twenty-one years, having resided within said District
7 for the period of one year or more next preceding the time
8 of such voting for or against this act, to proceed in taking
9 said votes in all respects not herein specified, as at elections
10 under the municipal laws, and with as little delay as possible
11 to transmit correct statements of the votes so cast to the
12 President of the United States; and it shall be the duty of
13 the President to canvass said votes immediately, and if a
14 majority of them be found to be for this act, to forthwith issue
15 his proclamation giving notice of the fact; and this act shall
16 only be in full force and effect on and after the day of such
17 proclamation.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That involuntary
2 servitude for the punishment of crime whereof the party
3 shall have been duly convicted shall in nowise be prohibited
4 by this act.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That for all the
2 purposes of this act, the jurisdictional limits of Washington
3 are extended to all parts of the District of Columbia not now
4 included within the limits of Georgetown.

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