

An Act Prohibiting the Carrying on the Slave Trade from the United States to any Foreign Place or Country, 1794

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1 **SECTION 1.** *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States*
2 *of America in Congress assembled,* That no citizen or citizens of the United States, or foreigner,
3 or any other persons coming into, or residing within the same, shall, for himself or any other
4 person whatsoever, either as master, factor or owner, build, fit, equip, load or otherwise prepare
5 any ship or vessel, within any port or place of the said United States nor shall cause any ship or
6 vessel to sail from any port or place within the same, for the purpose of carrying on any trade or
7 traffic in slaves, to any foreign country; or for the purpose of procuring, from any foreign
8 kingdom, place or country, the Inhabitant' of such kingdom, place or country, to be transported to
9 any foreign country, port, or place whatever, to be sold or disposed of, as slaves And if any ship
10 or vessel shall be so fitted out, as aforesaid, for the said purposes, or shall be caused to sail, so as
11 aforesaid, every such ship or vessel her tackle, furniture, apparel and other appurtenances, shall
12 be forfeited to the United States; and shall be liable to be seized, prosecuted ant condemned, in
13 any of the circuit courts, or district court for the district where the said ship or vessel may be
14 found and seized..

15 **SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That all and every person, so building, fitting out,
16 equipping, loading, or otherwise preparing, or sending away, any ship or vessel, knowing or
17 intending that the same shall be employed in such trade or business, contrary to the true intent
18 and meaning of this act, or any ways aiding or abetting therein, shall severally forfeit and pay the
19 sum of two thousand dollars, one moiety thereof to the use of the United States, and the other
20 moiety thereof to the use of him or her who shall sue for and prosecute the same.

21 **SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That the owner, master or factor of each and every foreign
22 ship or vessel, clearing out for any of the coasts or kingdoms of Africa, or suspected to be
23 intended for the slave trade, and the suspicion being declared to the officer of the customs, by
24 any citizen, on oath or affirmation, and such information being to the satisfaction of the said
25 officer, shall first give bond with sufficient sure ties, to the treasurer of the United States, that
26 none of the natives of Africa, or any other foreign country or place, shall be taken on board the



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27 said ship or vessel, to be transported, or sold as slaves, in any other foreign port or place
28 whatever, within nine months thereafter.

29 **SEC. 4.** *And be it further enacted,* That if any citizen or citizens of the United States shall,
30 contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, take on board, receive or transport any such
31 persons, as above described, in this act, for the purpose of selling them as slaves, as aforesaid,
32 he or they shall forfeit and pay, for each and every person, so received on board, transported, or
33 sold as aforesaid, the sum of two hundred dollars, to be recovered in any court of the United
34 States pro per to try the same; the one moiety thereof to the use of the United States, and the
35 other moiety to the use of such person or persons, who shall sue for and prosecute the same.

36 APPROVED. March 22. 1794.

