

A Bill

To be entitled "An Act for the Relief of Freedmen and Freedwomen"

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, as follows:

Sec 1st

That all persons who at any time heretofore lived together as husband and wife and both of whom by the laws of bondage were precluded from the rites of matrimony, and continued to live together until the death of one of the parties, shall be considered as having been legally married, and the issue of such cohabitation is declared legitimate - and all such persons as may be now living together in such relation shall be considered as having been legally married, and the children heretofore or hereafter born of such cohabitations, are declared legitimate from and after the passage of this act -



Sec 2nd

That no person or persons mentioned in the foregoing section shall be indicted, prosecuted or punished

For Bigamy or Adultery for such
Cohabitation, before the passage of
this act -

See 3^d

All laws and parts of laws so far
as they contravene the provisions of
this act, are hereby repealed, and
that this act take effect and be in
force from, and after its passage,

Submitted to J. P. M. 1

submitted S. B. No. 1

A Bill

Entitled "An act
for the relief of
of
Freedom and Freedwomen"

May 5th 1870. Read first time

Ed. Salawa on general file

May 13th Taken from file read

& then passed to Engrossment

Read 3d time.

May 26, 1870. Reported

sent to the Senate

Enrolled Aug 15/70

in Printing
copy

Approved by the Senate

to read for the relief

of Persons formerly

in Ben Lige

circles in May 1870