

Vagrant Law

Sec. 2... All freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes in this State, over the age of eighteen years...with no lawful employment or business, or found unlawfully assembling themselves together...shall be deemed vagrants, and on conviction...shall be fined...and imprisoned at the discretion of the court...

Certain Offense of Freedmen

Sec. 1...That no Freedmen, free negro or mulatto, not in the military service of the United States government, and not licensed so to do by the board of police of his or her county, shall keep or carry firearms of any kind, or any ammunition, dirk or bowie knife...

Sec. 5...If any Freedmen, free negro, or mulatto, convicted of any of the misdemeanors provided against in this act, shall fail or refuse for the space of five days, after conviction, to pay the fine and costs imposed, such person shall be hired out by the sheriff or other officer...to any white person who will pay said fine...

-Mississippi Legislature, "Mississippi Black Code" (1865) excerpt