

CHAPTER 204
SB 187 – FINAL VERSION

03/14/13 0801s
24Apr2013... 1275h
06/06/13 2019EBA

2013 SESSION

13-0926
08/03

SENATE BILL **187**

AN ACT posthumously emancipating enslaved Africans in New Hampshire.

SPONSORS: Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Boutin, Dist 16; Sen. Larsen, Dist 15; Rep. Cushing, Rock 21; Rep. Cali-Pitts, Rock 30; Rep. Wazlaw, Rock 29; Rep. Gerald Ward, Rock 28; Rep. Pantelakos, Rock 25

COMMITTEE: Public and Municipal Affairs

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill posthumously emancipates certain enslaved Africans.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

CHAPTER 204
SB 187 – FINAL VERSION

03/14/13 0801s
24Apr2013... 1275h
06/06/13 2019EBA

13-0926
08/03

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Thirteen

AN ACT posthumously emancipating enslaved Africans in New Hampshire.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 204:1 Purpose.

2 I. In the midst of the Revolutionary War, 20 enslaved Africans from Portsmouth presented a
3 petition to the general court asking it to abolish slavery so “that the name of slave may not more be
4 heard in a land gloriously contending for the sweets of freedom.” The general court denied the
5 petition, stating “[A]t this time, the House is not ripe for a Determination in this matter:
6 Therefore ordered that the further consideration and determination of the matter be postponed till a
7 more convenient opportunity.” Fourteen of the men died as slaves.

8 II. The 20 men quoted the ideals of the Revolution in their petition, rightly stating that
9 “Freedom is an inherent right of the human species, not to be surrendered but by consent, for the
10 sake of social life [and] that private or public tyranny and slavery are alike detestable to minds
11 conscious of the equal dignity of human nature.”

12 III. According to historian Valerie Cunningham, by 1800, “six petitioners became free and
13 independent family heads: Peter Warner, Pharaoh Shores, Jack Odiorne, Prince Whipple, Cesar
14 Gerrish, and Romeo Rindge.”

15 IV. This act would answer that petition by posthumously declaring those who died in slavery
16 free men 234 years after their first request.

17 204:2 Emancipation. The following men are hereby declared emancipated freed men in
18 gratitude for their service to the colonial foundations of New Hampshire:

19	Samuel Wentworth	Winsor Moffatt
20	Cato Warner	Garrett Colton
21	Kittindge Tuckerman	Peter Frost
22	Seneca Hall	Nero Brewster
23	Pharaoh Rogers	Quam Sherburne
24	Cato Newmarch	Will Clarkson
25	Zebulon Gardner	Cipio Hubbard

26 204:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

27

CHAPTER 204
SB 187 – FINAL VERSION
- Page 2 -

- 1 Approved: July 9, 2013
- 2 Effective Date: July 9, 2013