ANNO TRICESIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. LIV.

An Act for the Encouragement and Relief of Friendly Societies. [21st *June* 1793.]

WHEREAS the Protection and Encouragement of Friendly Societies in this Kingdom, for raising, by voluntary Subscription of the Members thereof, separate Funds for the mutual Relief and Maintenance of the said Members in Sickness, Old Age, and Infirmity, is likely to be attended with very beneficial Effects, by promoting the Happiness of Individuals, and at the same Time diminishing the publick Burthens; may it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful Preamble.

Any Number of Persons may form themselves into a Society, and raise among themselves a Fund for their mutual Benefit, and may make Rules, and impose Fines, &c.

to and for any Number of Persons, in Great Britain, to form themselves into, and to establish One or more Society or Societies of good Fellowship, for the Purpose of raising, from Time to Time, by Subscriptions of the several Members of every such Society, or by voluntary Contributions, a Stock or Fund for the mutual Relief and Maintenance of all and every the Members thereof, in Old Age, Sickness, and Infirmity, or for the Relief of the Widows and Children of deceased Members; and to and for the several Members of each such Society, or such Number of them as shall be nominated a Committee for that Purpose, from Time to Time to assemble together, and to make, ordain, and constitute such proper and wholesome Rules, Orders, and Regulations, for the better Government and Guidance of the same, as to the major Part of such Society, or such Committee thereof, so assembled together, shall seem meet, so as such Rules, Orders, and Regulations, shall not be repugnant to the Laws of this Realm, nor any of the express Provisions or Regulations of this Act, and to impose and inflict such reasonable Fines and Forfeitures upon the several Members of any such Society who shall offend against such Rules, Orders, or Regulations, as shall be just and necessary for duly enforcing the same, to be respectively paid to such Uses, for the Benefit of such Society, as such Society, by such Rules, Orders, or Regulations, shall direct; and also from Time to Time to alter and amend such Rules, Orders, and Regulations as Occasion shall require, or to annul and repeal the same, and to make new Rules, Orders, and Regulations in lieu thereof, under such Restrictions as are in this Act contained.

Rules of such Societies to be exhibited to the Justices in Quarter Sessions, who may annul or confirm them.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all such Rules, Orders, and Regulations, with all convenient Speed after the same shall be made, altered, or amended, and so from Time to Time after every making, altering, or amending thereof, shall be exhibited in Writing to the Justices of the Peace assembled at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or at any Adjournment thereof, in and for

the County, Riding, Division, or Shire where such Society shall be established, and such Rules, Orders, and Regulations shall be subject to the Review of such Justices, who shall and may, after due Examination thereof, at the then, or the then next subsequent Session, annul and make void all such Rules, Orders, or Regulations as shall be repugnant to this Act, and shall allow and confirm all such Rules, Orders, and Regulations as shall be conformable to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, and after the Confirmation thereof by such Justices, all such Rules, Orders, and Regulations, so confirmed, shall be signed by the Clerk of the Peace at such Sessions, and a Duplicate thereof, being first fairly wrote on Parchment, shall be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace at such Sessions, to be by him filed with the Rolls of the Sessions there, without any Fee to be paid for any Matter or Thing relating to the same; and such Rules, Orders, and Regulations, approved of and confirmed by the Justices, and filed as aforesaid, shall be binding upon all Parties during the Continuance of the same; and no such Society, which shall hereafter be established, shall be deemed or taken to be within the Intent and Meaning of this Act, until good and competent Rules, Orders, and Regulations for the Government of the same shall have been confirmed by the Justices, and filed as aforesaid, according to the Directions of this Act before mentioned; nor shall any such Society, which hath already been established for the Purpose aforesaid be, or be deemed or taken to be, within the Intent and Meaning of this Act, unless all the Rules, Orders, or Regulations, under which such Society is thereafter to be governed, shall be exhibited and confirmed in Manner aforesaid, and shall be filed at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or at any Adjournment thereof to be holden in and for the County, Riding, Division, or Shire, where such Society hath been established, at some Time before or immediately next after the Feast of Saint Michael in the Year One thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

Rules to be signed by the Clerk of the Peace, and deposited with him.

No Society to be within the Meaning of this Act till their Rules have been confirmed.

No confirmed Rule to be altered but at a General Meeting of the Society, &c.

III. Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Rule, Order, or Regulation, confirmed by the Justices of the Peace in Manner aforesaid, shall be altered, rescinded, or repealed, unless at a General Meeting of the Members of such Society as aforesaid, convened by Publick Notice, in Writing, signed by the Secretary or Clerk of such Society, in pursuance of a Requisition for that Purpose, by Three or more of the Members of such Society, and publickly read at the Two usual Meetings of such Society to be held next before such General Meeting, for the Purpose of such Alteration or Repeal, unless a Committee of such Members shall have been nominated for that Purpose, in which Case such Committee shall be convened in like Manner, and unless such Alteration or Repeal shall be made with the Concurrence and Approbation of Three-fourths of the Members of such Society then and there present, or by the like Proportion of such Committee as aforesaid, if any shall have been nominated for that Purpose; and such Alteration or Repeal shall be subject to the Review of the Justices at such General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or at any Adjournment thereof, as aforesaid, and shall be filed in the Manner hereinbefore directed; and that no such Rule, Order, or Regulation shall be binding, or have any Force or Effect, until the same shall have been agreed to and confirmed by such Justices, and filed as aforesaid.

Alterations of Rules to be subject to the Review of the Quarter Sessions.

Society may appoint Officers.

IV. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every such Society shall and may, from Time to Time, at any of their General Meetings, or by their Committee, if any such shall be appointed for that Society, elect and appoint such Persons into the Office of Steward, President, Warden, Treasurer, or Trustee of such Society as they shall think proper, and also shall and may from Time to Time elect and appoint such Clerks and other Officers as shall be deemed necessary to carry into Execution the Purposes of such Institution, for such Space of Time, and for such Purposes, as shall be fixed and established by the Rules and Regulations of such Society, and from Time to Time to elect and

and appoint others in the Room of those who shall vacate or die; and such Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, and all and every other Officer or Officers, or other Persons whatever, who shall be appointed to any Office in anywise touching or concerning the Receipt, Management, or Expenditure of any Sum or Sums of Money collected for the Purpose of any such Society, before he or they shall be admitted to take upon him or them the Execution of any such Office or Trust, shall (if required so to do by the Rules or Regulations of such Society to which such Officers shall belong) become bound with Two sufficient Sureties for the just and faithful Execution of such Office or Trust, and for rendering a just and true Account, according to the Rules, Orders, and Regulations of such Society, and in all Matters lawful to pay Obedience to the same, in such penal Sum or Sums of Money as by the major Part of such Society, at any such Meeting as aforesaid, shall be thought expedient, and to the Satisfaction of such Society; and that every such Bond or Bonds to be given by or on the Behalf of such Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, shall be given to the Clerk of the Peace of the County, Riding, Division, or Shire, where such Society shall be established for the Time being, without Fee or Reward; and in case of Forfeiture, it shall be lawful to sue upon such Bond in the Name of the Clerk of the Peace for the Time being, for the Use of the said Society; and every such Bond or Bonds to be given by any other Person or Persons appointed to any such other Office or Trust as aforesaid, shall be given to the Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees as aforesaid, of such Society for the Time being, to be by him or them respectively prosecuted for any Forfeiture thereof, and for the Use of such Society to which such Officer or Officers shall belong; and no Bond or other Security to be given to or on Account of any such Society, or in pursuance of this Act, shall be charged or chargeable with any Stamp Duty whatever.

Securities to be given for Offices of Trust, if required.

Treasurers or Trustees to give Bond to the Clerk of the Peace;

and other Persons to the Treasurers or Trustees.

Bonds not chargeable with Stamp Duty.

V. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every such Society shall and may, from Time to

Appointment of Committees.

Time, elect and appoint any Number of the Members of such Society, not less than Eleven, to be a Committee, and shall and may delegate to such Committee all or any of the Powers given by this Act to be executed; who being so delegated shall continue to act as such Committee for and during such Time as they shall be appointed; and in all Cases where a Standing Committee shall be appointed for such Society, for General Purposes, the Powers of such Committee shall be first declared in and by the Rules, Orders, and Regulations of such Society, confirmed by the Justices of the Peace at their Sessions, and filed in the Manner herein-before directed; and in all Cases where a Committee shall be appointed for any particular Purpose or Purposes, the Powers delegated to such Committee shall be reduced into Writing, and entered into a Book by the Secretary or Clerk of such Society, and Five of the Members of such Committee, at least, shall at all Times be necessary to concur in any Act of such Committee, and such Committee shall, in all Things delegated to them, act for and in the Name of such Society; and all Acts and Orders of such Committee, under the Powers delegated to them, shall have the like Force and Effect as the Acts and Orders of such Society, at any General Meeting thereof, could or might have had in pursuance of this Act: Provided always, that the Transactions of such Committee shall be from Time to Time, and at all Times, subject and liable to the Review, Allowance or Disallowance, and Controul, of such Society, in such Manner and Form as such Society shall by their General Rules, Orders, and Regulations, confirmed by the Justices, and filed as aforesaid, have directed and appointed, or shall in like Manner direct and appoint.

Powers of Standing Committees to be declared in the Rules of the Society, and of particular Ones entered in a Book.

Committees controulable by Society.

Treasurers or Trustees to lay out Surplus of Contributions,

VI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, for the Time being, of any such Society, and he and they is and are hereby authorized and required from Time to Time, by and with the Consent of such Society, to be had and testified in such Manner as shall be directed by the General

Rules and Orders of such Society, to lay out or dispose of such Part of all such Sums of Money as shall at any Time be collected, given, or paid to and for the beneficial Ends, Intents, and Purposes of such Society, as the Exigencies of such Society shall not call for the immediate Application or Expenditure of, either on private Securities, to be approved of as aforesaid (such Securities to be taken in the Name or Names of such Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, for the Time being), or to invest the same in the Publick Stocks or Funds, in the proper Name or Names of such Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, and from Time to Time, with such Consent as aforesaid, to alter and transfer such Securities and Funds, and to make Sale thereof respectively.

and to bring the Proceeds to Account for the Use of the Society.

VII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all the Dividends, Interest, and Proceeds which shall from Time to Time arise from the Monies so laid out or invested as aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, be brought to account by such Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, and shall be applied to and for the Use of such Society, according to the Rules, Orders, and Regulations thereof.

Treasurers, &c. to render Accounts, and pay over Balances, &c.

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, for the Time being, and all other Officers of any such Society, who shall have or receive any Part of the Monies, Effects, or Funds of such Society, or shall in any Manner have been or shall be entrusted with the Disposition, Management, or Custody thereof, or of any Securities relating to the same, his, her, and their Executors, Administrators, and Assigns respectively, shall, upon Demand made, in pursuance of any Order by such Society or Committee to be appointed as aforesaid for that Purpose, give in his or their Account or Accounts, at a General Meeting of any such Society, or to such Committee thereof as aforesaid, to be examined, and allowed or disallowed, and shall, on the like Demand, pay over all the Monies remaining in his or their Hands, and assign and transfer or deliver all Securities, Effects, or Funds taken or standing in his or their Name or Names as aforesaid, or being in his or

their Hands or Custody, to the Treasurer or Treasurers, or Trustee or Trustees, for the Time being, or to such Person or Persons as such Society shall appoint; and in case of any Neglect or Refusal to deliver such Account, or to pay over such Monies, or to assign, transfer, or deliver such Securities or Funds in Manner aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for every such Society, in the Name of the Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees thereof, as the Case may be, to exhibit a Petition in the High Court of Chancery, or the Court of Exchequer, in England, or the Court of Session in Scotland, or the Courts of Great Sessions in Wales respectively, who shall and may proceed thereupon in a summary Way, and make such Order therein, upon hearing all Parties concerned, as to such Court in their Discretion shall seem just; and all Assignments and Transfers made in pursuance of such Order shall be good and effectual in Law, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

and in case of Neglect, Application may be made to the Court of Chancery, &c.

No Fee to be taken for any Proceedings in such Courts, &c.

IX. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Fee, Reward, Emolument, or Gratuity whatsoever, shall be demanded, taken, or received by any Officer, or Minister of such Court, for any Matter or Thing done in such Court in pursuance of this Act; and that upon the presenting of any such Petition, it shall be lawful for the Lord High Chancellor, the Master of the Rolls, and Barons of the Exchequer, respectively, in England, or the Lords of Session in Scotland, or the Judges of any of the Courts of Great Sessions in Wales, to assign Counsel learned in the Law, and to appoint a Clerk of such Court to advise and carry on such Petition on the Behalf of such Society, who are hereby respectively required to do their Duties therein without Fee or Reward; and that no such Proceedings in such Court, in pursuance of this Act, shall be chargeable with any Stamp Duty.

Executors, &c. to pay Money due to Societies before any other Debts.

X. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person appointed to any Office by any such Society, and being entrusted with or having in his Hands or Possession any Monies or Effects belonging to such Society, or any Securities relating to the same, shall die, or become a Bankrupt, or Insolvent, his Executors

or Administrators, Assignee or Assignees, shall, within Forty Days after Demand made by the Order of any such Society, or the major Part of them assembled at any Meeting thereof, deliver over all Things belonging to such Society, to such Person or Persons as such Society shall appoint, and shall pay, out of the Assets or Effects of such Person, all Sums of Money remaining due, which such Person received by virtue of his said Office, before any of his other Debts are paid or satisfied; and all such Assets and Effects shall be bound to the Payment and Discharge thereof accordingly.

Effects of Societies to be vested in the Treasurers or Trustees for the Time being, who may bring and defend Actions, &c.

XI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Monies, Goods, Chattels, Stocks, Annuities, and other transferrable Securities and Effects whatever, belonging to such Society, shall be vested in the Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, for the Time being, for the Use and Benefit of such Society, and from and after the Death or Removal of any Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, shall vest in the succeeding Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, for the same Estates and Interests as he or they then had therein, and subject to the same Trust, without any Assignment or Transfer whatever; and also shall, for all Purposes of Action or Suit, as well Criminal as Civil, in Law or in Equity, in anywise touching or concerning the same, be deemed and be taken to be, and shall in every such Proceeding (where necessary) be stated to be the Property of the Person or Persons appointed to the Office of Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees (as the Case may be) of such Society for the Time being, in his, her, or their proper Name or Names; and such Person or Persons so appointed shall, and they are hereby respectively authorized to bring or defend, or cause to be brought or defended, any Action, Suit, or Prosecution, Criminal as well as Civil, touching or concerning such Monies, Goods or Chattels, or Effects, of or belonging to such Society; and such Person or Persons so appointed shall and may, in all Cases concerning the Property of such Society, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in his or their proper Name or Names, without other Description; and no such Suit, Action, or Prosecution shall be discontinued or abate by the

the Death or Removal of such Person or Persons from the said Office of Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees aforesaid, but the same shall and may be proceeded in by the succeeding Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, in the proper Name or Names of the Person or Persons commencing the same; any Law, Usage, or Custom to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Societies to declare the Purpose of their Establishment, &c. before the Confirmation of their Rules by the Quarter Sessions;

XII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every such Society so to be established as aforesaid, before any of the Rules, Orders, or Regulations thereof shall be confirmed by the Justices in the Manner herein-before directed, shall, in or by One or more of the General Rules, Orders, or Regulations to be confirmed by such Justices, declare all and every the Intents and Purposes for which such Society is intended to be established; and shall also, in and by such Rules, Orders, and Regulations, direct all and every the Uses and Purposes to which the Money, which shall from Time to Time be subscribed, paid, or given to, or for the Use or Benefit of such Society, or which shall arise therefrom, or in anywise belonging to such Society, shall be appropriated and applied, and in what Shares and Proportions, and under what Circumstances, any Member of such Society, or other Person, shall or may become entitled to the same, or any Part thereof; and which Application shall not in anywise be repugnant to the Uses, Intents, and Purposes of such Society, or any of them, so to be declared as aforesaid; and all such Rules, Orders, or Regulations, during the Continuance of the same, shall be complied with and enforced; and the Monies so subscribed, paid, or given, or so arising to or for the Use or Benefit of such Society, or belonging thereto, shall not be diverted or misapplied, either by the Treasurer or Treasurers, Trustee or Trustees, or any other Officer or Officers of such Society entrusted therewith, under such Penalty or Forfeiture as such Society shall by any General Rule, Order, or Regulation, impose and inflict for such Offence; and that it shall not be lawful for any such Society, by any Rule, Order, or Regulation, at any General Meeting or otherwise, to dissolve or determine such Society, so long as the Intents or Purposes declared

and may inflict Penalty for Misapplication of Money.

The Consent, necessary for Dissolution of Societies.

clared by such Society, or any of them, remain to be carried into Effect, without the Consent and Approbation of Five Sixths of the then existing Members of such Society, and also of all Persons then receiving, or then entitled to receive, Relief from such Society, either on Account of Sickness, Age, or Infirmity, to be testified under their Hands, individually and respectively; nor shall it be lawful for such Society, by any Rule, Order, or Regulation, to direct the Division or Distribution of such Stock or Fund, or any Part thereof, to or amongst the several Members of such Society, other than for carrying into Effect the General Intents and Purposes of such Society declared by them, and confirmed by the Justices of the Peace as aforesaid, according to the Directions of this Act, but that all such Rules, Orders, or Regulations for the Dissolution or Determination of any such Society, without such Consent as aforesaid, or for the Distribution or Division of the Stock or Fund of such Society, contrary to the Rules, Orders, and Regulations which shall have been confirmed by the said Justices at their Sessions, and filed in pursuance of this Act, shall be void and of none Effect.

Stock not divisible but for the General Purposes of the Society.

XIII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all the Rules, Orders, and Regulations, from Time to Time made, ordained, and constituted by any such Society, in the Manner directed by this Act, shall be forthwith entered into a Book or Books to be kept by One or more of the Members of such Society, to be appointed for that Purpose, and shall be signed by the said Members, and shall at all seasonable Times be open for the Inspection of any Member of such Society; and such Rules, Orders, and Regulations so entered and signed, shall be deemed Original Orders, and shall be received in Evidence as such in all Disputes and in all Trials before any Court in this Kingdom; and that no Certiorari shall be brought or allowed to remove any of the Rules, Orders, or Regulations of any such Society, made in pursuance of this Act, into any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster.

Rules to be entered into a Book, and received in Evidence, &c.

XIV. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any such Society to receive Donations of any Person or Persons, towards

Societies may receive Donations.

towards the Supply of their Stock or Fund, and all such Sums shall be applicable to the general Purposes of such Society, in the like Manner as the Contributions of the several Members of such Society are or shall be directed to be applied in pursuance of this Act, and shall not be applied in any other Manner.

Proceedings, where Members think themselves aggrieved.

XV. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person having been admitted a Member of any such Society established by virtue of this Act, shall think himself aggrieved by any Act, Matter, or Thing done or omitted to be done by any such Society, or any Person or Persons acting under them, it shall and may be lawful for any Two or more Justices of the Peace of the County, Riding, Division, or Shire, where, or near unto the Place where such Society shall be established, on Complaint made upon Oath or Affirmation by or on the Behalf of such Person (which Oath or Affirmation such Justices of the Peace are hereby empowered and required to administer), to issue their Summons to the Presidents, Wardens, Stewards, or other principal Officers of such Society, by whatever Name such principal Officers shall be respectively named or called, or One of them, in case such Complaint shall be made against such Society collectively; and in case such Complaint shall be made against any Person or Persons appointed to such Office or Offices, then to summon such Person or Persons to appear before such Justices at a convenient Time and Place, to be respectively named in such Summons; and also to summon at the same Time and Place, if there shall be Occasion, all such Persons as shall appear to such Justices to have the Custody of the Rules, Orders, and Regulations of such Society, and such Justices, at the Time and Place named in such Summons, whether the Person or Persons so summoned shall or shall not appear according to such Summons, nevertheless, on Proof upon Oath or Affirmation of such Summons being duly served, or left at his, her, or their usual Place or Places of Abode, shall proceed peremptorily to hear and determine, in a summary Way, the Matter of such Complaint according to the true Purport and Meaning of the Rules, Orders, and Regulations of such Society,

confirmed by the Justices according to the Directions of this Act, and shall make such Order therein as to them shall seem just; and every such Order of such Justices shall be complied with, and shall be final to all Intents and Purposes, and shall not be subject to Appeal, or to be removed or removeable into any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster.

Where general Rules direct Disputes to be settled by Arbitration, the Award of the Arbitrators to be final.

XVI. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if Provision shall be made by one or more of the general Rules or Orders of any such Society, and confirmed as required by this Act, for a Reference by Arbitration of any Matter in Dispute between any such Society, or any Person or Persons acting under them, and any individual Members thereof, the Matter so in Dispute shall be referred to such Arbitrators as shall be named and elected in such Manner as shall be prescribed by such general Rules or Orders; and whatever Award, Order, or Determination shall be made by the said Arbitrators, or the major Part of them, according to the true Purport and Meaning of the Rules and Orders of such Society, confirmed by the Justices according to the Directions of this Act, shall be binding and conclusive on all Parties, and shall be final to all Intents and Purposes, without Appeal, or being subject to the Controul of Two or more Justices of the Peace in the Manner herein-before prescribed.

No Member of a Society, producing a Certificate thereof, to be removeable till actually chargeable to a Parish.

XVII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Member of any Society to be established in pursuance of this Act, who shall inhabit or reside in any Parish, Township, or Place, not having a legal Settlement there, or who shall come to inhabit or reside there, and shall deliver to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, Township, or Place, or to any or either of them, a Certificate, under the Hands of the Stewards, Presidents, Wardens, or Treasurers of such Society, or any Two of them, for the Time being, to be attested by One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, thereby acknowledging the Person mentioned in such Certificate to be a Member of such Society, shall, during the Time such Person shall continue to be such Member thereof, be removeable from any Parish, Township, or Place where any such Certificate

hath

hath been delivered as aforesaid, to the Place of his or her last legal Settlement, by virtue of any Law now in being relative to the Settlement of the Poor, until such Person shall become actually chargeable to such Parish, Township, or Place, or shall be forced to ask Relief for himself or herself, or for his or her Family, or for some Part thereof, of the Parish, Township, or Place, to which such Certificate was delivered as aforesaid, and that then, and not before, it shall and may be lawful for such Person, together with his or her Family, not having otherwise acquired a legal Settlement there, to be removed and conveyed to the last legal Place of Settlement of such Person as aforesaid, according to the Laws now in being relating to the Settlement of the Poor.

How Certificates are to be authenticated.

XVIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That every such Certificate shall express the Place and Places of Abode respectively of the Persons signing and attesting the same; and that One of the Witnesses attesting the same shall make Oath before a Justice of the Peace of the County, Riding, Division, Shire, Liberty, Borough, Town Corporate, or Place where such Society shall be established, (which Oath such Justice of the Peace is hereby authorised and required to administer), that such Witness did see the Persons whose Names are thereunto set, severally sign the said Certificate, and that the Name or Names of such Witness or Witnesses is or are of his or their own proper Hand Writing, which said Justice of the Peace shall also certify that such Oath was made before him; and every such Certificate so made, and Oath of the Execution thereof so certified by the said Justice of the Peace, shall be taken, deemed, and allowed in all Courts whatsoever as duly and fully proved, and shall be taken and received as Evidence without other Proof thereof.

On Complaint of Parish Officers, Justices may summon Persons bringing Certificates, to be examined, and make Oath of their Settlement, &c.

XIX. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful, upon Complaint made by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, Township, or Place, where such Certificate shall be delivered, to any Justice or Justices of the Peace of the County, Riding, Division, or Shire, or of the City, Borough, Town Corporate, or Place where any such Person as aforesaid shall

inhabit or reſide, or come to inhabit or reſide, under the Authority of this Act, for ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace to cauſe any ſuch Perſon mentioned in ſuch Certificate as aforeſaid to be ſummoned before him or them, in the Diviſion or Place where ſuch Perſon ſhall ſo reſide, or come to reſide, in order to be examined, and to make Oath touching the Place of his or her laſt legal Settlement, (which Examination upon Oath the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices is and are hereby impowered and required to take), and every ſuch Perſon ſo ſummoned is hereby directed and required to obey ſuch Summons, and to make Oath accordingly; and ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices is and are hereby reſpectively required to give an attested Copy of ſuch Examination, ſo taken before him or them, to the Perſon making the ſame, to be by him or her, or any Perſon on his or her Behalf, at any Time afterwards, produced before any ſuch of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace as aforeſaid, before whom ſuch Perſon ſhall be again ſummoned to make Oath as aforeſaid; and that in caſe any ſuch Perſon ſhall be ſo again ſummoned, then, on the Production of ſuch attested Copy as aforeſaid, ſuch Perſon ſhall not be compelled or required to take any other or further Oath with regard to any of the Matters contained in ſuch Examination, but ſuch Perſon ſhall, if required, permit a Copy thereof to be taken for ſuch laſt-mentioned Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace.

Copies of Examinations to be given the Parties, which ſhall exempt them from future Examination.

XX. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Two or more of the Juſtices of the Peace as aforeſaid, who ſhall have taken ſuch Examination as aforeſaid, or before whom ſuch attested Copy of ſuch Examination ſhall be produced, at the Requeſt of ſuch Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor as aforeſaid, by an Order in Writing under the Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals of ſuch Juſtices, to adjudge and declare the Place of the laſt legal Settlement of any ſuch Perſon, having been ſo examined on Oath as aforeſaid, or of ſuch of his or her Family as ſhall reſide in ſuch Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, under the Authority of this Act, without iſſuing any Warrant to remove ſuch Perſon, or his or her Family as aforeſaid, to ſuch Place of his, her,

Juſtices may declare, by an Order in Writing, the Place of Settlement of Perſons ſo examined, without iſſuing Warrant for Removal.

her, or their last legal Settlement, and that a Duplicate of every such Order shall be transmitted to the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden next after the Expiration of Twenty Days from the Time of making thereof, for the County, Riding, Division, or Shire, where such Person shall so reside, to be filed amongst the Records of the said Court; and that a Copy of every such Order, to be attested by One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, or a Duplicate thereof, together with an attested Copy of such Examination to be annexed to such Copy of such Order, or Duplicate thereof, shall be delivered to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish, Township, or Place, in which the Person mentioned in such Order shall be adjudged to be last legally settled as aforesaid, or to any or either of them, at least Fifteen Days before the First Day of holding such Sessions; and that upon due Proof to be made on Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses before the Justices of the Peace at such Sessions, of the Delivery of such Copy, or Duplicate, with such Examination annexed thereto as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the said Justices of the Peace at such Sessions, and they are hereby required, to direct every such Order to be filed amongst the Records of the said Court; and that every such Order so filed shall be final and conclusive in ascertaining and determining the Place of the last legal Settlement of the Person or Persons named in such Order, unless the same shall be appealed against within the Time hereinafter mentioned.

Copies of such Orders and of Examinations to be returned to the Parish Officers of the Place of Settlement, &c.

Persons aggrieved by Adjudication of Justices may appeal to the Quarter Sessions, &c.

XXI. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Persons, who shall think themselves aggrieved by any such Adjudication of the said Justices may appeal to the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden next after the Expiration of Fifteen Days from the Time of the Delivery of such Copy or Duplicate as aforesaid, for the County, Riding, Division, or Shire where such Order was made; and the Justices of the Peace at such Sessions shall and may receive such Appeal, and proceed to hear and determine the Merits of such Appeal in like Manner, with the same Effect, and under the like Rules, as if the Person

or Persons mentioned in such Order had been by Warrant of Two Justices actually removed to the Place where he, she, or they were last legally settled, under and by virtue of any Law in being, before and at the Time of the making of this Act, and may award the like Costs on such Appeal as may be awarded on Appeals from Orders of Removals of poor Persons by any Statute or Statutes now in Force, to be recovered in like Manner as Costs awarded under the Authority of such Statute or Statutes.

No Person who shall reside in any Parish under this Act shall thereby acquire a Settlement;

XXII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Member of any such Society, who shall reside in any Parish, Township, or Place under and by virtue of this Act, shall have or be deemed to have acquired any Settlement in such Parish, Township, or Place, by Delivery and Publication of any Notice in Writing, unless the same shall be made after such Person shall cease to be a Member of such Society, and after the Revocation of his or her Certificate herein-before mentioned.

nor for paying Rates;

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That no Member of any such Society who shall reside as aforesaid, under the Authority of this Act, and shall be taxed, rated, or assessed towards any of the Rates, Cares, or Levies of the Parish, Township, or Place, where such Member shall so reside, and shall duly pay the same, shall be deemed or taken thereby to have any legal Settlement in such Parish, Township, or Place; any Law to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

nor any Apprentice or Servant to such Persons;

XXIV. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person who shall be an Apprentice, bound by Indenture to, or shall be a hired Servant to or with any Person who did come into or shall reside in any Parish, Township, or Place, under the Authority of this Act, and not afterwards having gained a legal Settlement in such Parish, Township, or Place, shall gain or be adjudged to have any Settlement in such Parish, Township, or Place, by reason of such Apprenticeship or Binding, or by reason of such Hiring or Serving therein; but all such Apprentices and Servants shall have their Settlements in such Parish, Township or Place, as if they had not been bound, or had not been

hired

hired to such Person as aforesaid, any Act or Acts of Parliament to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bastards to have the Mother's Settlement.

XXV. And be it further enacted, That every Child which shall be born a Bastard in any Parish, Township, or Place, during the Mother's Residence therein, under the Authority of this Act, shall have and be deemed to have the same Settlement which the Mother has or is entitled unto at the Time of the Birth of such Child; any Law, Usage, or Custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Charges of maintaining or removing Residents under this Act to be reimbursed by the Parish to which the Parties belong.

XXVI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when any Overseer or Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, Township, or Place, shall have been put to any Charge in the maintaining any Person or Persons, or their Families, residing in such Parish, Township, or Place, under the Authority of this Act, or in removing any Person or Persons back to the Place to which he, she, or they shall belong, after he, she, or they shall have become actually chargeable, or asked Relief as aforesaid, such Overseers shall from Time to Time be reimbursed such reasonable Charges by the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish, Township, or Place, to which such Person or Persons shall belong, the said Charges being first ascertained and allowed of by One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace residing near the Place where such Charges shall be incurred; to be levied, in case of Refusal of Payment, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of such Overseers of the Poor as last aforesaid, by Warrant or Warrants, under the Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals of such Justice or Justices, returning the Overplus if any there be; which Warrant or Warrants he or they is and are hereby required to grant.

Publick Act.

XXVII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed a Publick Act; and be judicially taken Notice of as such, by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whomsoever, without the same being specially pleaded.

FINIS.

ANNO REGNI

GEORGII III.

REGIS

Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ,

TRICESIMO TERTIO.

At the Parliament begun and holden at *Weſtminſter*, the Twenty-fifth Day of *November Anno Domini* 1790, in the Thirty-firſt Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, *&c.*

And from thence continued, by ſeveral Prorogations, to the Thirteenth Day of *December* 1792; being the Third Seſſion of the Seventeenth Parliament of *Great Britain*.



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