Anno nono

Georgii III. Regis.

An Act for the more effectual Relief of the Poor in the County of *Devon*.

WHEREAS it has been found by Experience within the County of Devon, that the Laws and Statutes now in being for the Maintenance and Support of the Poor do not effectually answer the Design and Intention of such Laws; and that notwithstanding great Sums of Money are raised for the Support and Maintenance of the Poor, yet they are very badly provided for: And whereas it is well known that in many Parishes in the said County great Numbers of indigent Persons and others are much better supported and maintained in Time of Sickness, or other Incapacity to work and labour, by entering into Societies amongst themselves, and raising a Stock or Fund by small Contributions for their mutual Support and Relief in Times of Necessity; but such Societies being illegal and unwarrantable, and liable to Misapplications, Preamble.

Frauds, and other Abuses; to the Intent therefore that such Societies may be established by Law, under proper Restrictions and Regulations for the Relief and Support of poor and indigent Persons in Times of Necessity: May it 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 from and after the Passing of this Act, the several Persons for the time being assessed to the Poors Rate of every Parish, Township, or Place, within the said County of Devon, shall and may, within their respective Parishes, Townships, and Places, assembled together on the Whitsun Monday next following, and afterwards yearly on Easter Monday at the usual Place of publick Meetings in every such Parish, Township, or Place, at the Hour of Twelve of the Clock at Noon; and the major Part of them so assembled shall at such Meeting make a List in Writing of the Names of Four at the least of the most substantial Parishioners and Householders living within such respective Parishes, Townships, or Places, who each of them shall have in their own Right, or in the Right of their Wives, Goods or other Property of the Value of Five hundred Pounds; and if there shall not be Four Persons having such Qualification as aforesaid, then they shall insert in such List the Names of so many of such Persons as are so qualified as before required, together with the Names of so many of the most substantial Parishioners and Householders, having in their own Right, or in the Right of their Wives, Goods or Property of the clear Value of One hundred Pounds at the least, as shall make up the Number of Four; and if there shall not be Four Persons having such Qualifications as aforesaid, then they shall insert in such List the Names of so many of such Persons as are so qualified as before required, together with the Names of so many of the most substantial Parishioners and Inhabitants as shall make up the Number Four; and the Constable, Headborough, or Tythingman, of such Parish, Township, or Place, shall return such List to Two or more Justices of the Peace of the Division or Liberty in which such Parish, Township, or Place shall be, at their Special Sessions to be held for that Purpose in Whitsun Week next after the passing of this Act, or within

Time and Place of Parishioners Meetings, and to make out a List of Four Persons qualified to serve as Stewards and Managers.

List to be returned to the Justices at their Sessions.

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in One Month afterwards, and in every subsequent Year, at their Special Sessions to be held for that Purpose in Easter Week, or within One Month after; and shall also, within Three Days after the making such List, give personal Notice thereof in Writing to, or cause the same to be left at the usual Places of Abode of, the several Persons named in such List; and the said Justices, or the major Part of them, shall from such List, according to their Discretion and the Largeness of the Parish, Township, or Place respectively, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals (and for which a Fee of One Shilling only shall be paid by the Overseers or Inhabitants of every such Parish, Township, or Place) nominate and appoint Two or more of such Persons, whose Names shall be inserted in such List, who shall be Stewards and Managers of all such Sums of Money as shall be subscribed and paid into their Hands in every such Parish, Township, or Place within the said County, for the sole Use and Benefit of the Subscribers, in such Manner as is herein after-mentioned and declared concerning the same; and such Nomination and Appointment shall by Order of the said Justices be delivered or transmitted to the Constable, Headborough, or Tythingman of every such Parish, Township, or Place respectively, within their Division, and within Three Days after such Nomination and Appointment; who shall immediately upon Receipt thereof give Notice thereof to each of the said Persons so nominated and appointed, and shall deliver the said Nomination and Appointment to One of them.

Notice to be given to the Persons named in such List.

Justices to nominate Stewards and Managers.

Nomination to be delivered to the Constable or other Officer,

who is to give Notice thereof to the Persons appointed.

And be it further enacted, That all Mayors, Bailiffs, or other Head Officers, of all Cities, Corporations, Boroughs, and other Places within the said County, being Justices of the Peace, shall have the same Authority by virtue of this Act within the Limits of their several Jurisdictions, as well out of Sessions as in Sessions, in the Manner herein directed and appointed to One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the County at large, who shall and may do and execute all Acts, Matters, and Things, prescribed by this Act, within the Limits of their several Jurisdictions, for the due Execution hereof.

Justices of the Peace impowered to act within their Jurisdictions.

And be it further enacted, That the said Stewards and Managers shall immediately upon such Notice of such their Nomination and Appointment, or as soon after as conveniently can be, at the Expence of the Parish, to be paid out of the Poors Rate, provide Two

Stewards and Managers to provide Books,

Folio Paper Books bound, in One of which is to be entered the Names of every Inhabitant who shall subscribe towards such Stock or Fund as is herein after-mentioned and intended to be raised, and in the other shall be entered an Account of all Monies received and paid, in the Manner herein likewise after-mentioned: And the said Stewards and Managers for the time being shall, immediately after Divine Service on the Sunday next after Notice of their Appointment, meet together and agree upon a Notice, in Writing, to be published in the Church on the Sunday following, for all such Inhabitants as are willing to join in the raising and establishing a Stock or Fund for their Support and Relief in Time of Sickness, or other Incapacity of Work and Labour, to appear and give in their Names to the said Stewards and Managers on the Sunday next following immediately after Divine Service in the Forenoon; and shall on the Sunday next following after the Publication of such Notice, immediately after Divine Service in the Forenoon, enter, in such Folio Paper Book as aforesaid, in a fair Manner and alphabetical Order, the Christian and Surname of every such Inhabitant who shall subscribe towards any such Stock or Fund, together with the Time when, and the Sum which, he or she shall subscribe, and the Condition and Residence of the Person subscribing.

and give Notice to Persons to subscribe,

and to receive Subscriptions.

And, in order that a sufficient Stock or Fund may be raised and established in every Parish, Township, or Place throughout the said County, for the Use and Purposes aforesaid, be it further enacted, That from and after the Passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for every Inhabitant above the Age of Twenty one Years, and under the Age of Forty one Years, in every such Parish, Township, or Place, within the said County, to subscribe and pay, for the Uses and Purposes aforesaid, such Sums and in such Manner as is herein after-mentioned; that is to say, Every Servant, Labourer in Husbandry, Artificer, Manufacturer, or other Person whatsoever, who shall not be possessed of any Estate in Lands or Tenements of the yearly Value of Ten Pounds, or of any Stock in Trade or otherwise of the Value of Three hundred Pounds; and who shall work by the Day, or in any other Manner, for Wages, being a Man,

Method of raising a Stock or Fund in every Parish or Place.

is hereby authorized and impowered to pay into the Hands of the said Stewards and Managers in any Parish, Township, or Place, within the said County, where such Person shall reside and inhabit, the Sum of Six Pence; and every such Person being a Woman, Four Pence, and not less; on the First Day of every Fourth Week or Lunar Month: And every Husbandman, Tradesman, or other Person whatsoever, who shall be possessed of any Estate in Lands or Tenements, as Tenant or Occupier thereof, of the yearly Value of Ten Pounds and under Twenty Pounds, or who shall be possessed of any Stock in Trade or otherwise of the Value of Three hundred Pounds and under Four hundred Pounds, is hereby authorized and impowered to pay into the Hands of the said Stewards and Managers in any such Parish, Township, or Place, the Sum of One Shilling, and not less, on the First Day of every Fourth Week or Lunar Month: And every Husbandman, Tradesman, or other Person whatsoever, who shall be possessed of any Estate in Lands or Tenements, as Tenant or Occupier thereof, of the yearly Value of Twenty Pounds and under Thirty Pounds, or who shall be possessed of any Stock in Trade, or otherwise, of the Value of Six hundred Pounds and under Eight hundred Pounds, is hereby authorized and impowered to pay into the Hands of the said Stewards and Managers in any such Parish, Township, or Place, the Sum of Two Shillings, and not less, on the First Day of every Fourth Week or Lunar Month: And every Husbandman, Tradesman, or other Person whatsoever, who shall be possessed of any Estate in Lands or Tenements, as Tenant or Occupier thereof, of the yearly Value of Thirty Pounds or more, or who shall be possessed of any Stock in Trade or otherwise of the clear Value of One thousand Pounds or more, is hereby authorized and impowered to pay into the Hands of the said Stewards and Managers in any such Parish, Township, or Place, the Sum of Two Shillings and Six Pence, and not less, on the First Day of every Fourth Week or Lunar Month: And every Husbandman, Tradesman, or other Person whatsoever, who shall occupy and be possessed of any Freehold Estate in any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, in his own Right or in Right of his Wife, of the yearly Value of Twenty Pounds and under Thirty Pounds, is hereby authorized and impowered

powered to pay into the Hands of the said Stewards and Managers, in any such Parish, Township, or Place, the Sum of Two Shillings and Six Pence, and not less, on the First Day of every Fourth Week or Lunar Month: And every Husbandman, Tradesman, or other Person whatsoever, who shall occupy and be possessed of any Freehold Estate in any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, in his own Right, of the yearly Value of Thirty Pounds and upwards, is hereby authorized and impowered to pay into the Hands of the said Stewards and Managers, in any such Parish, Township, or Place, the Sum of Three Shillings, and not less, on the First Day of every Fourth Week or Lunar Month: And all and every other Person or Persons whatsoever, may lawfully and freely pay into the Hands of the said Stewards and Managers, in any such Parish, Township, or Place, within the said County, any such Sum or Sums of Money towards increasing and establishing the said Funds for the Purposes aforesaid, as they shall think fit: Which Stock or Fund, when so raised and established as aforesaid, shall be employed and applied in supporting, maintaining, and relieving, the several Payers and Subscribers thereto, in such Proportions and Manner as is herein after-mentioned, and in no other Manner, and for no other Purpose, whatsoever.

Societies established before passing of this Act, are authorized, with Consent of the Parishioners, to pay over unto the Steward the Money then in Hand;

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for all or any Societies established and set up before the passing of this Act, by and with the Consent of the major Part of the Inhabitants assessed to the Poors Rate of the Parish or Place where such Society or Societies shall be held and established, to pay into the Hands of the Steward or Manager of such Parish or Place appointed for the Purposes of this Act, all such Sum and Sums of Money as shall be then in their Hands;

and they are thereupon intitled to all Benefits under this Act.

and all and every the Members of such Society or Societies, so paying in such Monies as aforesaid, shall, notwithstanding his, her, or their being under or above the Age prescribed by this Act, be immediately therefrom intitled to the Benefits and Allowances hereby directed to be given and allowed in case of Sickness or Infirmity, in proportion to the Sums by him, her, or them subscribed, and in the Manner herein after directed; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided

Provided always, That no Apprentice, Idiot, or Lunatick, nor any Person who at the Time of his or her offering to subscribe shall appear to be unsound in Body or Limbs, shall be permitted to be, or continue to be, a Subscriber towards such Stock or Fund, in any such Parish, Township, or Place whatsoever.

Exception as to Apprentices, Idiots, and Lunatics.

And be it further enacted, That every Person who shall be a Subscriber to the said Stocks or Funds, hereby intended to be raised, in any such Parish, Township, or Place, shall, immediately upon his or her being taken sick, or upon any Accident happening to him or her, whereby such Person shall be rendered incapable to work and labour, give Notice to the acting Stewards and Managers for the time being, or One of them; and such Stewards and Managers shall immediately thereupon, by himself or other fit Persons, visit such sick or infirm Person; and if they shall find that such Person is incapable of Work and Labour, shall, within Six Days after such Notice, make to such Person, or to some other fit Person for his or her Use and Benefit, the First Payment which he or she shall be intitled unto out of the said Stock or Fund, by virtue of his or her Subscription, and shall continue the same Weekly, during the Sickness or other Infirmity of such Person, according to the Circumstances of the Case, and in such Manner as is herein after directed; and shall in any Case of Necessity order the Apothecary and Surgeon herein after mentioned, to visit such Person during the Continuance of his or her Sickness and Infirmity, and as long as it shall be necessary: And to the end that all such Persons as shall be Subscribers towards the said Funds, in the Manner herein before mentioned, may be preserved in Health, and taken Care of and relieved in Time of Sickness or any other Accident, the said Stewards and Managers shall, by and with the Consent of the major Part of the Parishioners and Inhabitants assessed to the Poors Rate in every such Parish, Township, or Place, who shall be assembled at any Vestry to be held for that Purpose, contract and agree with some skilful Apothecary and Surgeon, in the Neighbourhood of such Parish, Township, or Place, for his Attendance and Visiting the sick or otherwise infirm Subscribers during the Time of their Sickness or Infirmity; and shall pay

Every Subscriber to give Notice of Sickness or other Accident to the acting Steward and Manager; who shall visit such Subscriber; and if he is unable to work, shall make the First Payment which he is intitled to, and continue the same Weekly, and order the Apothecary to attend.

Stewards, &c. may contract with an Apothecary to attend the Sick,

out of the said Stocks or Funds to such Apothecary and Surgeon, for his Attendance only, any such reasonable Sum as they can agree for, not exceeding the Sum of Five Guineas by the Year, according to the Largeness of the Parish, Township, or Place, and the Number of Inhabitants there: And in order to save as much as possible to the several Stocks and Funds in the great Charge and Expences of Sickness, the said Stewards and Managers in every Parish, Township, and Place, shall, with the like Consent, and under the Direction of the Apothecary and Surgeon, or of the Minister of the Parish for the time being, purchase from time to time, and as often as shall be necessary, of some skilful and substantial Druggist, such Drugs and Medicines as are most commonly and usually wanted, and shall carefully keep and preserve the same, for the Use of the Subscribers only, locked up in some convenient Box or Chest for that Purpose, and in some dry and secure Place, to be used occasionally under the Direction of the said Apothecary and Surgeon.

and purchase Medicines for the Use of the Subscribers.

And be it further enacted, That the said Stewards and Managers in every such Parish, Township, or Place, shall, out of the said several and respective Stocks or Funds in each and every such Parish, Township, or Place respectively, pay and allow to every Male Subscriber of Six Pence Monthly, the Sum of Six Shillings, Weekly and every Week, whenever such Person shall, by Sickness or other Accident, be confined to his Bed, and thereby rendered incapable of Work and Labour; which said Weekly Payment of Six Shillings shall be made and continued regularly to such Person, or to some other on his Behalf, for his Relief and Support, for and during the Space of Two Months, if such Person shall be so long confined to his Bed, and shall not be able to walk abroad; and from and after the End of Two Months, or from the Time such Person shall be able to walk abroad (whichsoever shall first happen) then the Sum of Three Shillings, Weekly and every Week, till he shall be able to work and labour: And the said Stewards and Managers in every such Parish, Township, or Place, shall, out of the said several and respective Stocks or Funds in each and every such Parish, Township, or Place respectively, pay and allow to every Female Subscriber of

In what Proportion the Subscribers shall be relieved and paid.

Four

Four Pence Monthly towards such Stock or Fund, the Sum of Three Shillings, Weekly and every Week, whenever such Woman shall, by Sickness or other Accident, be confined to her Bed, and thereby rendered incapable of Work and Labour; which said Weekly Payment of the Sum of Three Shillings shall be made and continued regularly to such Woman, or to some other Person on her Behalf, for her Relief and Support, for and during the Space of Two Months, if such Woman shall be so long confined to her Bed, and shall not be able to walk abroad; and from and after the End of Two Months, or from the Time of her being able to walk abroad, (whichsoever shall first happen) then the Sum of Two Shillings, Weekly and every Week, till she shall be able to work and labour: And the said Stewards and Managers in every such Parish, Township, or Place, shall, out of the said several and respective Stocks or Funds in each and every such Parish, Township, or Place respectively, pay and allow to every Subscriber, whether Male or Female, of One Shilling Monthly towards such Stock or Fund, the Sum of Seven Shillings, Weekly and every Week, whenever such Person shall, by Sickness or other Accident, be confined to his or her Bed, and thereby rendered incapable of Work and Labour; which said Weekly Payment of the Sum of Seven Shillings shall be made and continued regularly to such Person, or to some other Person for his or her Relief and Support, for and during the Space of Two Months, if such Person shall be so long confined to his or her Bed, and shall not be able to walk abroad; and from and after the End of Two Months, or from the Time of such Person being able to walk abroad, (whichsoever shall first happen) then the Sum of Three Shillings and Six Pence, Weekly and every Week, till he or she is able to work and labour: And the said Stewards and Managers in every such Parish, Township, or Place, shall, out of the said several and respective Stocks or Funds in each and every such Parish, Township, or Place respectively, pay and allow to every Subscriber of Two Shillings Monthly towards such Stock or Fund, the Sum of Eight Shillings, Weekly and every Week, whenever such Person shall, by Sickness or other Accident, be confined to his or her Bed, and thereby rendered incapable

and purchase Medicines for the Use of the subscribing

What Person in the Service of

shall be retained and

capable

capable of Work and Labour; which said Weekly Payment of Eight Shillings shall be made and continued regularly to such Person, or to some other Person for his or her Relief and Support, for and during the Space of Two Months, if such Person shall be so long confined to his or her Bed, and shall not be able to walk abroad; and from and after the End of Two Months, or from the Time of such Person being able to walk abroad (whichsoever shall first happen) then the Sum of Four Shillings, Weekly and every Week, till he or she is able to work and labour: And the said Stewards and Managers in every such Parish, Township, or Place, shall, out of the said several and respective Stocks and Funds in each and every such Parish, Township, or Place respectively, pay and allow to every Subscriber of Two Shillings and Six Pence Monthly towards such Stock or Fund, the Sum of Eight Shillings and Six Pence, Weekly and every Week, whenever such Person shall, by Sickness or other Accident, be confined to his or her Bed, and thereby rendered incapable of Work and Labour; which said Weekly Payment of the Sum of Eight Shillings and Six Pence shall be made and continued regularly to such Person, or to some other Person for his or her Relief and Support, for and during the Space of Two Months, if such Person shall be so long confined to his or her Bed, and shall not be able to walk abroad; and from and after the End of Two Months, or from the Time of such Person being able to walk abroad, then the Sum of Four Shillings and Six Pence, Weekly and every Week, till he or she shall be able to work and labour: And the said Stewards and Managers in every such Parish, Township, or Place, shall, out of the said several and respective Stocks or Funds in every such Parish, Township, or Place respectively, pay to every Subscriber of Three Shillings Monthly towards such Stock or Fund, the Sum of Nine Shillings, Weekly and every Week, whenever such Person shall, by Sickness or other Accident, be confined to his or her Bed, and thereby rendered incapable of Work and Labour; which said Weekly Payment of Nine Shillings shall be made and continued regularly to such Person, or to some other Person for his or her Relief and Support, for and during the Space of Two Months, if

2

such Person shall be so long confined to his or her Bed, and shall not be able to walk abroad; and from and after the End of Two Months, or from the Time of such Person being able to walk abroad, then the Sum of Four Shillings and Six Pence, Weekly and every Week, till he or she is able to work and labour: And the said Stewards and Managers in every such Parish, Township, or Place, shall, out of the said several and respective Stocks or Funds in every such Parish, Township, or Place respectively, pay and allow to every Subscriber of more than Three Shillings and not less than Four Shillings and Six Pence Monthly towards any such Stock or Fund as aforesaid, so much Money, Weekly and every Week, as shall amount to Double such Monthly Subscription and Payment, whenever such Person shall, by Sickness or other Accident, be confined to his or her Bed, and thereby rendered incapable of Work and Labour; provided that such Weekly Payment shall not at any Time or in any Case exceed the Sum of Ten Shillings; which said Weekly Payment shall be made and continued regularly to such Person, or to some other Person for his or her Relief and Support, for and during the Space of Two Months, if such Person shall be so long confined to his or her Bed, and shall not be able to walk abroad; and from and after the End of Two Months, or from the Time of such Person being able to walk abroad, then only Half of such Weekly Payment, every Week, till he or she is able to work and labour.

Stewards, in extraordinary Cases, may continue the largest Weekly Payments.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Stewards and Managers, in case of any extraordinary Sickness or Infirmity, to continue the largest Weekly Payments or Allowance herein before mentioned for any longer Time than the Space of Two Months, if, and as long as they shall see Cause for so doing, and the Persons assessed to the Poors Rate at any Vestry or Parish Meeting assembled, or the major Part of them, shall consent thereto.

Subscribers to the lowest Monthly Rates are to be certified, as proper Objects of Relief, before receiving any Weekly Allowance under this Act.

Provided also, and be it further enacted and declared, That no Person or Persons whatsoever, who shall be a Subscriber, towards any of the said several and respective Stocks or Funds, of more than the Sum of Six Pence or Four Pence Monthly, shall be intitled to receive any Weekly Payment or Allowance under

under this Act, or by virtue of any Provision or Appointment herein mentioned, unless it shall appear to the said Stewards and Managers, by a Certificate under the Hands of a Majority of the Parishioners assessed to the Poors Rate, who shall be assembled at any Vestry to be held for that Purpose, that such Person or Persons is or are, and during the Time of his, her, or their Sickness or other Incapacity to work and labour, a proper Object of Relief.

And whereas it may sometimes happen that the Persons intitled to the Benefit of this Act, by virtue of their Subscriptions and Payments towards the said several and respective Stocks and Funds hereby intended to be raised, may, by Sickness or other Accident, be so far weakened and disabled as that they cannot, by their Work and Labour, gain a sufficient Maintenance for themselves; be it therefore further enacted and declared, That in such Case the said Stewards and Managers in every such Parish, Township, or Place, shall and may pay, out of the said Stocks or Funds herein before mentioned, to every such Person, One half of such Weekly Sum or Sums as he or she would be intitled unto in case of any Sickness or total Incapacity to work and labour, during the Continuance of such Weakness and Disability.

Infirm Persons may receive Half the Sum they would be intitled to in case of any total Incapacity.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That for the better raising and establishing such Stocks and Funds as aforesaid, for the Purposes aforesaid, in every such Parish, Township, or Place, no Person whatsoever shall be intitled to receive any Payment or Benefit whatsoever from any of the said Stocks or Funds, until he or she shall have been a Subscriber and Payer thereto for the Space of One Year at least of the Members of such Societies as shall, by and with such Consent as aforesaid, have paid in their respective Stock or Fund as aforesaid.

No Person to receive any Benefit till after 1 Year's Subscription.

And be it further enacted, That no Person whatsoever shall receive any Relief by virtue of his or her Subscription and Payment towards the said Funds, unless such Subscription and Payment shall have been duly and regularly paid (according to the Directions of this Act) to the Time of such Person's being sick, or incapable of Work and Labour, nor for any longer Time than during the Continuance of his or her Sickness,

No Relief to be given unless Subscription shall be paid to the Time of Sickness,

nefs, or other Incapacity to work and labour; and that no Person shall be intitled to receive any Benefit or Relief whatsoever but of any of the said Stocks and Funds, if his or her Sickness, or other Incapacity to Work and Labour, shall have been occasioned by his or her having been guilty of any criminal Act, nor from any Clandestine Complaint: And if any Person shall feign any Sickness or other Incapacity, or by Fraud or Imposition procure any Payment of Relief under this Act, and shall be convicted thereof by the Oath of One Witness before any Justice of the Peace for the said County, unless such Person shall pay unto the said Stewards and Managers the Sum of five Shillings, together with all such Sums as he or she shall have so fraudulently received, such Person, on Default thereof, shall be committed to the House of Correction for One Month, and be excluded from any Benefit under this Act.

nor where Sickness, &c. is occasioned by any illegal Act,

nor any Vexatious Complaint.

Penalty on Persons feigning Sickness, or obtaining Relief by Fraud.

Provided always, That where any Person or Persons shall have neglected to make his or her Monthly Payments for no more than the Space of Two Months, such Person or Persons shall and may, upon Payments of such his or her or their Arrears, and the Sum of One Shilling by way of Forfeiture, be intitled to the full Benefit and Relief under this Act, in like Manner as if he, she, or they, had not been guilty of any such Neglect, or made any such Default.

Persons not more than Two Months in Arrear, upon Payment of what is due, and 1 s. as a Forfeiture, are restored to the Benefit of this Act.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Person shall be intitled to receive any Payment or other Relief under this Act, who shall remove from One Parish to another, unless he or she shall produce, or cause to be produced, to the Stewards and Managers of the Parish or Place to which he or she formerly belonged, and where he or she are then Subscribers to the Stock and Funds there, or to One of them, a Certificate of his or her good Behaviour; and also setting forth the particular Disease or Accident that render him or her incapable of Work and Labour at the Time of such Certificate, under the Hands of the Minister and Churchwardens or Churchwarden of the Parish, or of Two principal Houlholders and Inhabitants of the Place, where there shall be no Minister or Churchwarden, where he or she shall then be resident; nor any Person who shall, after the Commencement of this Act, continue to be a Member

No Person to receive any Benefit as aforesaid, Persons removing from One Parish to another, not to receive Relief without producing a Certificate.

No Relief to be given unless Subscription shall be paid to the Time of Sickness,

Persons continuing Members of any Club, or running away and leaving their Families, not to have any Relief.

ber of any Box Club or Society now subsisting, or shall become a Member of any Society instituted for any of the Purposes intended to be hereby provided for, except such as are hereby instituted and authorized; nor any Person who shall, after the Commencement of this Act, run away from the Parish, Township, or Place, to which he or she shall belong, and shall leave his and her Family, or any Part thereof, to be maintained by such Parish, Township, or Place.

Subscribers of Ten Years, to receive Relief in Time of Incapacity to work by reason of old Age, in proportion to their Subscription.

And, as an Encouragement to all and every such Person or Persons as aforesaid, in every Parish, Township, or Place, within the said County, to become Subscribers to such Stock or Fund as be raised in their several and respective Parishes, Townships, or Places, be it further enacted, That whenever any Person, who shall have been a Subscriber and Payer towards any such Stock or Fund for the Space of Ten Years or more, shall, by Infirmity of Age, be rendered incapable of Work and Labour; the Stewards and Managers in every such Parish, Township, or Place respectively, shall pay and allow, Weekly and every Week, to every such antient and infirm Person incapable of Work and Labour by reason of Age, the several following and respective Sums, during the Life of such Person; that is to say, To every Male Subscriber of Six Pence Monthly, the Sum of Two Shillings and Six Pence Weekly during Life: To every Woman who shall have subscribed and paid as aforesaid the Sum of Four Pence Monthly, the Sum of Two Shillings Weekly during Life: To every Person who shall have subscribed and paid as aforesaid the Sum of One Shilling Monthly, the Sum of Three Shillings and Six Pence Weekly during Life; To every Person who shall have subscribed and paid as aforesaid the Sum of Two Shillings Monthly, the Sum of Four Shillings Weekly during Life: To every Person who shall have subscribed and paid as aforesaid the Sum of Two Shillings and Six Pence Monthly, the Sum of Four Shillings and Six Pence Weekly during Life: To every Person who shall have subscribed and paid as aforesaid the Sum of Three Shillings Monthly, the Sum of Four Shillings and Six Pence Weekly during Life: And to every Person who shall have subscribed and paid as aforesaid more than the Sum of Three Shillings, and

not

not less than Four Shillings and Six Pence Monthly, the Sum of Five Shillings Weekly, and not more, during Life.

Every Subscriber to receive 20s. on his or her Marriage to a Subscriber, and 20s. more at the Birth of every living Child, and 20s. to be paid towards his or her Funeral.

And as a further Encouragement to the careful and industrious Poor in the said several Parishes, Townships, or Places, be it further enacted, That the said Stewards and Managers shall, out of the said several Stocks and Funds, pay to every Subscriber of Six Pence or Four Pence only towards the said Funds within their respective Parishes, the Sum of Twenty Shillings whenever he or she shall be married to any other Subscriber towards the said Funds in the same or any Parish; and the further Sum of Twenty Shillings on the Birth of every living Child to the Persons so married, in lieu of the Weekly Payments herein before directed; which Sum of Twenty Shillings shall be paid out of the Stock or Fund raised in the Parish, Township, or Place, where such Person shall reside and pay to such Stock or Fund; And the said Stewards and Managers shall, on the Death of every Subscriber of Six Pence and Four Pence only, pay the Sum of Twenty Shillings for and towards Funeral Expences.

Subscribers may set up Trades in any Place in the County, but not to gain a Settlement.

And be it further enacted, That every Subscriber may and are hereby authorized to set up and exercise such Trades, and follow such manual Labour, as he or she is apt and able for, in any Parish, Town, or Place, within the said County; and that no such Person nor any of his, her, or their Family, shall thereby gain any Settlement in any such Parish, Township, or Place, by virtue of any Inhabitancy under this Act; but shall be liable to be removed whenever he or she or any of them, shall become chargeable to the Parish, Township, or Place, where he, she, or they, shall then be and reside, together with his, her, or their Family, to the Parish where he or she or any of them, were last legally settled; and that every such Person shall, at the Time of his or her coming to inhabit in any such Parish, Township, or Place, if required by One of the Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, be examined upon Oath, before One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the County, touching the Place of his or her last legal Settlement.

And it is further enacted, That the said Stewards and Managers in every such Parish, Township, or

The Stewards and Managers, or Two substantial Inhabitants, to enter Account of Receipts and Payments,

Place, shall enter in such Folio Paper Book, in which an Account is herein before directed to be entered of all Receipts and Payments relative to the said Stocks or Funds, on one Side thereof, a fair and regular Account of every Sum and Sums of Money which they shall receive, by virtue of and under the Authority of this Act, together with the Time when and by whom paid, and the Condition, Estate, and Residence, of the Person paying the same; and shall also enter, on the other Side, a fair and regular Account of all and every Sum and Sums of Money paid by them, or either of them, and the Time when and to whom, and upon what Account, and the Condition and Residence of the Person to whom paid; and shall, at the End of every Three Months, or within One Week after, balance the said Account.

and to balance such Account every Three Months.

Stewards, after making the Balance, are authorized to take upon them the Execution of their Office,

And be it further enacted, That the said Stewards and Managers may, at any Time after making such Balance, severally and separately take the Burthen and Execution of the said Office, each upon himself Monthly or Quarterly as they shall agree; and every Person, whose Name shall be entered in either of the said Folio Paper Books, being a Payer or Subscriber to such Stock or Fund, and giving reasonable Notice, shall and may, at all reasonable Times, have free Access to the said Books, and Liberty to inspect the same; and may, upon the like Notice, to the Steward and Manager in whose Custody the said Books shall then be, require and direct the same to be produced at any Parish Meeting; and the said Stewards and Managers shall and are hereby required to produce the same accordingly; and if any such Steward or Manager shall not, upon such Application by any Subscriber towards any such Stock or Fund, permit and suffer such Subscriber to inspect the said Books, or shall neglect or refuse to produce the same at such Parish Meeting as aforesaid, such Steward or Manager shall and may be summoned to appear before any Justice of the Peace for the said County, who shall make such Order therein as shall be reasonable: And if the said Stewards and Managers, or either of them, shall at any Time, upon any Application made to them by any Payer or Subscriber towards any such Stocks or Funds, or by any Person on his or her Behalf, for such Relief and Support, as is herein before mentioned, on ac-

upon giving Notice to have Access to the Books,

and may order them to be produced at a Parish Meeting.

Any Steward and Manager refusing to produce the same, may be summoned before One Justice.

count of any Sickness or other Incapacity to work and labour, refuse or neglect to allow and pay unto such Persons so applying such Sum or Sums weekly as are herein before directed, according to his or her Subscription as aforesaid; it shall and may be lawful for any Person, on Behalf of the Person so applying for Relief, to summon both or either of the said Stewards and Managers before any Justice of the Peace for the said County residing near the said Parish, Township, or Place; and such Justice shall examine the Matter in a summary Way, upon the Evidence on Oath of such Witness or Witnesses as shall appear before him on Behalf of the Party complaining; and such Justice may, if he see reasonable, cause or order such Payment to be made as the said Party shall be intitled unto by virtue of his or her Subscription and Payments towards the said Stocks or Funds.

Any Steward or Manager refusing to allow any Sum of Money to any such Person, may be summoned before any Justice, who shall order Relief.

And be it further enacted, That if it shall happen at any Time, that in any Parish, Township, or Place, within the said County, there shall be a Deficiency in any Stock or Fund hereby intended and appointed to be raised and established for the Purposes before mentioned, so as that the said Stewards and Managers in any of the said several and respective Parishes, Townships, or Places, cannot make all or any of the said several Weekly Payments, in Manner herein before directed; then, and in such Case, the Overseers of the Poor of any such Parish, Township, or Place, where such Deficiency shall at any Time happen, or One of them, shall, and are hereby required and directed to make good and pay out of the Poor Rates, into the Hands of the said Stewards and Managers in any such Parish, Township, or Place, so much Money as shall be requisite and necessary to make good any such Deficiency; and if any such Overseer or Overseers shall neglect or refuse so to do, on Complaint thereof made to any Two or more Justices of the Peace for the said County, the said Justices shall and may order all such Sums as shall appear to them on Examination to be necessary and requisite, to be levied by Warrant of Distress and Sale of the Goods of the said Overseer or Overseers; saving to such Overseer or Overseers at all Times a Right of Appeal to the next General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the said County, on giving proper and sufficient Notice thereof.

And the Poor Rates to come in Aid of any Deficiency in any of the Funds.

And

Stewards, &c. to deliver to their Succeſſors an Account of all Sums received,

And be it further enacted, That every ſuch Steward and Manager ſhall, at the End of the Year for which he ſerved the ſaid Office, or within Four Days after other Stewards and Managers ſhall have been nominated and appointed, deliver in to the ſucceeding Stewards and Managers a juſt Account in Writing, fairly entered in ſuch Book as is herein before mentioned, and ſigned by each of them, of all Sums received and paid, together with the Balance of ſuch Account, and alſo a fair Account in Writing of all other Things concerning their Office; and ſhall alſo pay over all ſuch Sums of Money as ſhall then be in their Hands to the ſucceeding Stewards and Managers; which Account ſhall be verified by Oath before One Juſtice, who ſhall ſign the taking the ſame at the Foot of the ſaid Account without Fee; and the ſaid Stewards and Managers ſhall alſo at the ſame Time deliver over to the ſucceeding Stewards and Managers both the ſaid Folio Paper Books herein before mentioned, who ſhall carefully preſerve the ſame for the Uſes and Purpoſes herein before mentioned: And if any ſuch Steward or Manager ſhall refuſe or neglect to make and yield up ſuch Account, verified upon Oath as aforeſaid, within ſuch Time as aforeſaid, or ſhall refuſe or neglect to pay over the Money due from him on the Balance of ſuch Account, and to deliver up the ſaid Books, any Two Juſtices, on Complaint thereof, may commit him to the Common Gaol or Houſe of Correction for the ſaid County, till he ſhall have given ſuch Account, and until he ſhall have paid over ſuch Money and delivered up the ſaid Books as aforeſaid: And if any ſuch Steward or Manager ſhall die or remove, or become inſolvent, before the Expiration of his Office, the Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, for which he was appointed ſhall immediately thereupon, in the Manner herein before mentioned, return a Liſt of Two ſubſtantial Houſeholders and Pariſhioners, qualified as is herein before directed, to Two Juſtices at their next Meeting, who ſhall thereupon nominate and appoint One of the ſaid Two Perſons to ſucceed to the ſaid Office, in the Manner herein before directed; and in the mean Time the other Steward and Manager, who ſhall remain in the ſaid Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, ſhall do and perform all Things neceſſary and requiſite relative to the ſaid Office; and every Steward,

and ſhall pay the Balance of ſuch Account on Oath.

Stewards, &c. to deliver Books.

If any Steward and Manager ſhall die, &c. another ſhall be appointed.

Stewards, &c. to deliver Books.

ard and Manager who shall remove from the Parish, Township, or Place, for which he shall have been nominated and appointed as aforesaid shall before such his Removal, deliver over to some other Steward or Manager for the same Parish, Township, or Place, his Account, perused upon Oath as aforesaid, together with all such Sums of Money as shall be in his Hands, and all Books and Papers, and all other Things concerning his Office; and if he shall neglect or refuse so to do he shall be committed as aforesaid; and the Executors or Administrators of any Steward or Manager dying in his said Office shall within Forty Days after his Decease deliver over to the surviving Steward or Manager an Account in Writing of all Things concerning his the said Steward or Managers's Office, and shall pay out of the Assets of such Steward and Manager all such Sums of Money as shall appear to have been in his Hands due to any of the said several Stocks or Funds and which he received by virtue of his said Office before any of his other Debts are paid, in such Manner as is herein before mentioned (any Law or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding) and shall deliver over all Books and Papers relating to the said Office; and if it shall happen that at the End of the Year, and the Expiration of the Office of any such said Stewards and Managers for any Parish, Township, or Place, and upon the delivering in the said Account of any of the said several Stocks or Funds in any Parish, Township, or Place within the said County, in the Manner before mentioned, there shall then be a Balance of One hundred Pounds or more in the Hands of any of the said Stewards and Managers for any such Parish, Township, or Place, the said Stewards and Managers for the Year ensuing shall and may by and with the Consent of the Persons for the time being assessed to the Poors Rate of such Parishes, Townships, or Places respectively or of the Majority of them assembled at a Vestry to be held for that Purpose, and Notice whereof shall be publickly given in the Church or at some other publick and notorious Place of Resort where there shall be such Church on the Sunday preceding such Meeting place out on Government Security only, so much of such Balance as shall exceed the Sum of fifty Pounds in the Names of both the Stewards and Managers

and shall pay free and clear of such Account on Oath.

If at the End of the Year there shall be a Balance of 100l. or more, so much thereof as shall exceed 50l. to be placed out at Interest.

If any Steward and Manager shall die &c. another shall be appointed.

of such Parish, Township, or Place, for the time being, who shall thereupon make some Declaration of the Trust thereof to and for the Use and Benefit of the said Subscribers to such Stock or Fund; which Declaration of Trust the Minister, or Two of the principal Inhabitants where there shall be no Minister, in every such Parish, Town, or Place respectively, shall and are hereby required and directed to see placed in the Chest belonging to such Parish, Township, or Place as aforesaid; which Money so placed out, together with the Interest thereof, shall and may, from time to time, upon any extraordinary Occasion of Death or other Necessity, be applied by the Stewards and Managers, with the Consent of the Majority of the Subscribers, and not otherwise, to and for their Relief and Benefit, in such Manner as the said Stewards and Managers, with the Consent of the Majority of the Subscribers and Persons assessed to the Poors Rate of such Parish, shall think fit to order and direct.

Such Money may upon extraordinary Occasions be applied.

Penalty on Parishes neglecting to meet and return such Lists.

And be it further enacted, That if in any such Parish, Township, or Place, the Persons herein before authorized and required to meet and assemble together, in manner aforesaid, shall neglect so to do, or to make and return such List in Writing, in such Manner as is herein before directed, the Person so neglecting, in every such Parish, Township, or Place, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds; to be recovered, in a summary Way, on the Complaint of any One Parishioner or Inhabitant of such Parish, Township, or Place, to any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County, and to be levied by the Constable or Bailiff of the Hundred in which such Parish, Township, or Place, lies, by Distress and Sale of the Goods of any One or more of the Parishioners, Householders, or Inhabitants there, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of such Justice aforesaid; One Moiety thereof to the Use of the Party making such Complaint, and the other Moiety to be applied to and for the Increase and Benefit of such Stock or Fund as may be raised in such Parish, Township, or Place; or if no such Stock or Fund shall be raised, then to the Use of the Poor of such Parish, Township, or Place: And in case any such Fine shall be so levied as aforesaid on any One or more of the Parishioners, Householders, or Inhabitants, of any such Parish, Township, or Place, then such

such Parishioner or Parishioners, Householders, or Inhabitants, shall and may make his or their Complaint to the Justices of the Peace at their next Special Sessions; and the said Justices, or any Two of them, are hereby impowered and authorized, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to cause a Rate or Assessment to be made upon all and every the Occupiers of Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, within any such Parish, Township, or Place, for the reimbursing such Parishioner or Parishioners, Householders, or Inhabitants, the Money so levied on him or them as aforesaid; which Rate so made and confirmed by any Two Justices shall be collected and levied by the Overseer or Overseers of the Poor of any such Parish, or by the Constable, Headborough, Tythingman, or other proper Officer of any such Township or Place; and the said Overseer or Overseers, Constable, Headborough, Tythingman, or other proper Officer, shall, within One Month next after the making and confirming the Rate or Assessment aforesaid, collect, levy, and pay, unto such Parishioner or Parishioners, Householder, or Inhabitant, the Money so levied on him or them as aforesaid, first deducting the Quota or Share of such Parishioner, Householder, or Inhabitant, towards Payment of the said Penalty of Ten Pounds; and if such List shall not be duly returned as aforesaid, and the Justices of the said Division, or Two of them, shall neglect to make and deliver or transmit to the Constable, Headborough, or Tythingman, of any such Parish, Township, or Place, such Nomination and Appointment, in the Manner herein before directed, every Justice of such Division shall forfeit Five Pounds to such Stock or Fund as may be raised in any such Parish, Township, or Place; or if no such Stock or Fund shall be raised, then to the Use of the Poor of such Parish, Township, or Place; to be levied by the Constable, Headborough, or Tythingman, of such Parish, Township, or Place, by Distress and Sale, by Warrant from the Sessions: And if any Steward and Manager, who shall have been so nominated and appointed as aforesaid, and not having appeared, either by himself or some other credible Witness upon Oath, before the said Justices, at the Time of such Nomination and Appointment, and shewn sufficient Cause, to be allowed by the said Justices, why he should not take upon himself the said Office, shall refuse and neglect to take upon himself

Penalty on Stewards for neglecting to serve.

self the Burthen and Execution thereof, or shall make Default in any of the Particulars herein before directed to be done and performed by him, or shall absent himself from any of the said Meetings, or shall be otherwise negligent in his said Office, he shall, for every such Default, forfeit the Sum of Twenty Shillings to the Use and Benefit of such Stock or Fund as shall be raised in such Parish, Township, or Place; to be levied by the Constable, Headborough, or Tythingman of the Parish, Township, or Place, to which he belongs, by Warrant from Two Justices, by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods, or, in Default thereof, any Two Justices may commit the Offender to the Common Gaol or House of Correction for the said County, for any Time not exceeding One Month: And if any Steward or Manager, or other Officer, or any Person whatsoever, shall neglect or refuse to perform and obey, or to do any other Act, Matter, or Thing directed by this Act, or touching the Execution thereof, or shall act contrary thereto; in every such Case, every such Person so offending, where no other Remedy or Penalty is herein before otherwise provided, shall, for every such Offence, on Oath thereof made within Two Calendar Months after the Offence committed before any Two or more Justices of the Peace of the said County, forfeit to the Use of the Stock or Fund in such Parish, Township, or Place, where the Party resides, any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, and not less than Twenty Shillings; to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods, by Warrant of Two Justices.

Penalty on Persons offending against this Act.

Provided always, That if any Person shall think himself or herself aggrieved by any thing done by any Justice or Justices of the Peace, or by any other Person or Persons, in pursuance of this Act, and for which no particular Method of Relief hath been already appointed; such Person may appeal to any General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held for the said County, within Six Months after the Cause of such Complaint shall have arisen, such Appellant first giving, or causing to be given to such Justice or other Person, by whose Act or Acts such Person shall think himself or herself aggrieved, Ten Days Notice at the least of such Appeal, and within Four Days after such Notice entering into Recognizance before some Justice of the Peace for the said County, with

Persons aggrieved may appeal to the Quarter Sessions.

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One sufficient Surety, conditioned to try such Appeal, and abide the Order of, and pay such Costs as shall be awarded by, the Justices of such Quarter Sessions; and every Justice of the Peace, or such other Person, having received Notice of such Appeal as aforesaid, shall return all Proceedings whatever had before them respectively, touching the Matter of such Appeal, to the said Justices at their General Quarter Sessions aforesaid; and the said Justices, at such Sessions, upon due Proof of such Notice being given as aforesaid, and of the entering into such Recognizance, shall hear and finally determine the Causes and Matters of such Appeal in a summary Way, and award such Costs to the Parties appealing or appealed against, as they the said Justices shall think proper, to be levied and recovered as herein before directed; and the Determination of such Quarter Sessions shall be final and conclusive to all Intents and Purposes: And no Proceedings to be had or taken in pursuance of this Act, shall be quashed or vacated for want of Form.

Proceedings not to be quashed for want of Form only.

And be it further enacted and declared, That any Parishioner or Inhabitant of any Parish, Township, or Place, in all Questions arising upon this Act, shall be deemed a competent Witness, notwithstanding his or her being a Parishioner or Inhabitant of any such Parish, Township, or Place.

Parishioners, &c. may be Witnesses.

Provided nevertheless, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to annul, repeal, or make void or alter any Act of Parliament or Statute for the Employment, Maintenance, or Relief of the Poor of this Kingdom.

Nothing in this Act to affect any Act for the Relief of the Poor.

And be it further enacted, That if any Action or Suit shall be brought against any Person or Persons for any thing done in Pursuance and in Performance of this Act, then, and in every such Case, such Action or Suit shall be commenced or prosecuted within Six Months after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and the same and every such Action or Suit, shall be brought in the said County, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants, in every such Action or Suit, shall and may plead the General Issue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence, at any Trial to be had thereupon, and that the same was done in pursuance of and by the Authority of this Act; and if the same shall appear to have been so done, or if any such Action or Suit shall

Limitation of Actions.

General Issue.

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be brought after the Time limited for bringing the same, or be brought or laid in any other County, then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs become Nonsuit, or discontinue his, her, or their Action, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared, or if, upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs; then, and in every such Case, the Defendant and Defendants shall and may recover Treble Costs; and such Defendant or Defendants shall have the like Remedies for the Recovery thereof, as any other Defendant or Defendants hath or have in any other Case by Law.

Treble Costs.

Publick Act.

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