ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO QUARTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

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CAP. XCVI.

An Act to amend an Act, passed in the Fifth Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, intituled *An Act containing divers Orders for Artificers, Labourers, Servants of Husbandry, and Apprentices.* [18th *July* 1814.]

5 Eliz. c. 4.

Reciting that Persons should not exercise any Art except they had served an Apprenticeship of Seven Years, &c.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Fifth Year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen *Elizabeth*, intituled *An Act containing divers Orders for Artificers, Labourers, Servants of Husbandry, and Apprentices*, it was enacted, That from and after the First Day of *May* then next coming, it should not be lawful to any Person or Persons, other than such as did then lawfully use or exercise any Art, Mystery, or Manual Occupation, to set up, occupy, use, or exercise, any Craft, Mystery, or Occupation, then used or occupied within the Realm of *England*, or *Wales*, except he shall have been brought up therein Seven Years at least as an Apprentice; nor to set any Person on Work in such Mystery, Art, or Occupation, being not a Workman at that Day, except he shall have been Apprentice as aforesaid, or else having served as an Apprentice as aforesaid shall become a Journeyman, or hired by the Year, upon Pain that every Person willingly offending, or doing the contrary, shall forfeit and lose for every Default Forty Shillings for every Month: And whereas it is expedient that so much of the said Act should be repealed: Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and

So much of the recited Act shall be repealed.

Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That so much of the said recited Act shall be and the same is hereby repealed, and declared to be null and void to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

Other Part of the Act respecting Apprentices repealed.

II. And whereas by the said Statute, divers Rules and Regulations were enacted respecting the Qualifications of Persons entitled to take and become Apprentices, and the Term of Years for which such Apprentices should be bound, and as to the Mode of binding such Apprentices; and it was also enacted, by the said Statute, That all Indentures, Covenants, Promises, and Bargains, of and for the having, taking, or keeping of any Apprentice, otherwise thereafter to be made or taken, than is by the said Statute limited, ordained, and appointed, should be clearly void in the Law to all Intents and Purposes; and that every Person that should from thenceforth take or newly retain any Apprentice contrary to the Tenor and true Meaning of the said Act, should forfeit and lose for every Apprentice so by him taken the Sum of Ten Pounds: And whereas it is expedient that so much of the said recited Act should be repealed; be it therefore enacted, That so much of the said recited Act shall be and the same is hereby repealed; and that it shall and may be lawful for any Person to take or retain or become an Apprentice, though not according to the Provisions of the said Act; and that Indentures, Deeds, and Agreements in Writing entered into for that Purpose, which would be otherwise valid and effectual, shall be valid and effectual in Law, the Repeal of so much of the said Act as is herein last above recited notwithstanding.

Justices may determine Complaints as heretofore.

III. And be it further enacted, That any Justice or Justices of the Peace may hear and determine any Complaints that may arise respecting any Apprenticeships, in like Manner as if they had been made under the Act hereby in Part repealed.

Customs of London in respect to Apprentices not to be affected.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That this Act, or any Thing herein contained, shall not extend or be construed to extend, to defeat, alter, or prejudice the Custom and Order of the City of *London* concerning Apprentices, or the ancient Custom, Usages, Privileges, or Franchises of the said City, or of any other City, Town, Corporation, or Company lawfully constituted, or the Citizens and Freemen thereof; or any Bye Law or Regulation of any Corporation or Company lawfully constituted.

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