ANNO PRIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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CAP. XXIV.

An Act to explain and amend an Act of the Seventh Year of His Majesty King *George* the Fourth, to provide for improving and rebuilding Shire Halls, County Halls, and other Buildings for holding the Assizes and Grand Sessions, and also Judges Lodgings, throughout *England* and *Wales*. [30th *June* 1837.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Fourth, intituled *An Act to provide for improving and rebuilding Shire Halls, County Halls, and other Buildings for holding the Assizes and Grand Sessions, and also Judges Lodgings, throughout* England *and* Wales, it is amongst other things enacted, that whenever it shall appear to the Justices at any General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden in any County, Riding, or Division in *England* or *Wales*, by any Presentment to be made by the Grand Jury at any Assizes or Session of Gaol Delivery or Session of the Peace to be holden for any such County, Riding, or Division, or by any Presentment to be at any Time made by any Two or more Justices of the Peace in and for such County, Riding, or Division, and laid before the Justices at any such General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, that any Shire Hall, County Hall, or other Building accustomably made use of for holding the Assizes 7 G. 4. c. 63.

or

or Sessions of the Peace shall be insufficient, inconvenient, deficient, or in want of Repair or Improvement, or that there is a Necessity for the Erection of a new Shire Hall, County Hall, or other Building, it shall be lawful for the Justices assembled at the General or Quarter Sessions at which such Presentment shall be laid before such Justices in manner therein mentioned to take such Measures, either by Contract or otherwise, as shall appear to them to be requisite and proper for the altering, enlarging, repairing, or improving of any Shire Hall, County Hall, or other Building as aforesaid, or for the pulling down of any such Shire Hall, County Hall, or other Building, or any Part thereof, and for the building of any new Shire Hall, County Hall, or other Building, or any Part thereof, in lieu of any Building or any Part of any Building which shall be so pulled down: And whereas the Assizes and Sessions of the Peace for divers Counties, Ridings, and Divisions have been usually holden in the Town Hall of some City or Town, or in some Building, belonging jointly to such County, Riding, or Division, and to the City or Town wherein the same is situate, and not in any Shire Hall, County Hall, or other Building belonging exclusively to such County, Riding, or Division; and Doubts have been entertained whether under the Provisions of the said Act the Justices have Power under any such Presentment as aforesaid to take Measures for the building, altering, or repairing of any Shire Hall or County Hall, or Building used or to be used partly as a Shire Hall and partly as a Town Hall, in those Cases in which such Assizes or Sessions have heretofore been usually holden in some Town Hall or other Building not being a Shire Hall or County Hall or other Building belonging exclusively to such County, Riding, or Division, and it is expedient that such Doubts should be removed: And whereas by an Act passed in the Fourth Year of His late Majesty King *William* the Fourth's
4 W. 4. c. 71. Reign, intituled *An Act for the Appointment of convenient Places for the holding of Assizes in* England *and* Wales, it is amongst other things enacted, that His Majesty, by and with the Advice of His Most Honourable Privy Council, shall have Power from Time to Time to order and direct at what Place or Places in any County of *England* or *Wales* the Assizes or Sessions under the Commissions of Gaol Delivery and other Commissions for the Despatch of Criminal and Civil Business shall be holden, and to order and direct such Assizes and Sessions for the Despatch of Criminal and Civil Business to be holden at more than One Place in the same County on the same Circuit; and it is expedient that the Provisions contained in the said Act of the Seventh Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Fourth should be extended to Cases where it may be necessary to provide Shire Halls for holding Assizes in Places at which the same may be holden under the Provisions of the said Act of the Fourth Year of the Reign of His said late Majesty: And whereas it is also expedient that the Justices of the Peace of Counties, Ridings, or Divisions in *England* and *Wales* should be empowered to enter into Contracts with the Owners of Town Halls or other Buildings, for the Use and Occupation of such Town Halls or other Buildings, or Part thereof, for the holding of Assizes and Sessions therein, and for other County Business, and for the Repair, Alteration, or Im-

provement of such Town Halls or other Buildings: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen'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 all and singular the Powers, Authorities, and Provisions in the said Act of the Seventh Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Fourth contained relative to the building, altering, and repairing of any Shire Hall or County Hall, in lieu of any former Shire Hall or County Hall pulled down under the Provisions of the said Act, and to the purchasing any Houses, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments for that Purpose, and to defraying the Expences of any such Building, and to raising Money for that Purpose, shall be deemed and taken to apply to and authorize the building, altering, and repairing of any Shire Hall or County Hall, or Building used or to be used partly as a Shire Hall and partly as a Town Hall, in those Cases in which such Assizes or Sessions as aforesaid have usually been holden in some Town Hall or other Building not belonging exclusively to such County, Riding, or Division, and whether such Town Hall or other Building shall or shall not be pulled down, and the purchasing any Houses, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments for that Purpose, and the defraying the Expences of any such Building, and the raising Money for that Purpose, in the same Way as if such Shire Hall, County Hall, or Building used or to be used partly as a Shire Hall and partly as a Town Hall had been built in lieu of some Shire Hall or County Hall pulled down under the Provisions of the said last-mentioned Act.

Powers of 7 G. 4. c. 63. to extend to Cases of building or repairing new Shire Halls or County Halls, or Buildings used partly as Shire Halls and partly as Town Halls, in certain Cases.

II. And be it enacted, That in all Cases in which by virtue of any Order in Council, made or to be made under the Authority of the said Act of the Fourth Year of the Reign of His said late Majesty, the Assizes for any County, Riding, or Division have been or shall hereafter be directed to be holden in any City, Town, or Place in which the same have not usually been holden, either in addition to or in substitution for the Place at which the same have usually been holden for such County, Riding, or Division, the Provisions contained in the said Act of the Seventh Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Fourth shall be deemed and taken to authorize and empower the Justices in Sessions assembled to take all necessary Measures, by Contract or otherwise, for purchasing in such City, Town, or Place at which such Assizes shall have been or may hereafter be directed to be holden any Building to be converted into or used as a new Shire Hall or County Hall, or for purchasing in such City, Town, or Place any Ground, and erecting thereon any new Shire Hall or County Hall, and for repairing and altering from Time to Time any such Shire Hall, County Hall, or Building, in the same Manner and subject to the same Restrictions and Regulations, and with the same Powers and Authorities, as in the said last-mentioned Act are contained with reference to the County Halls or Shire Halls therein mentioned: Provided always, that nothing herein or in the said recited Act contained shall be deemed or taken to restrict the said Justices from purchasing any such Shire Hall or County Hall, or

Where Place for holding Assize is changed, the Justices empowered to takeMeasures for providing the Accommodation necessary.

or causing the same to be built in any Place which to them may seem most convenient.

Clerks of the Peace, by Order of Justices in Sessions, for Counties may contract for Use of Buildings for holding Assizes and Sessions.

III. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Clerk of the Peace for the Time being of any County, Riding, or Division, by Order of the Justices of the Peace of such County, Riding, or Division in General or Quarter Sessions assembled, by Writing under his Hand to contract, on behalf of such County, Riding, or Division, with any Person or Persons, Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, being the Owner or Owners of any Town Hall or other Building, for the Use and Occupation of such Town Hall or other Building, or any Part or Portion thereof, for holding the Assizes and Sessions of such County, Riding, or Division therein, and for other public Purposes of such County, Riding, or Division, upon such Terms, and subject to such annual Rent, and to such Conditions as to the Repairs, Alterations, or Improvements of such Halls or other Buildings, or any Part or Portion thereof, and for furnishing the same with necessary and convenient Furniture, Matters, and Things, or otherwise, as may be agreed upon between such Clerk of the Peace, on behalf of such County, Riding, or Division, and such Owner or Owners as aforesaid; and all such Contracts shall be binding and conclusive upon the several Parties thereto for such Period of Time as shall be specified therein; and such annual Rent, and the Costs and Charges of such Alterations, Repairs, Improvements, and Furniture, or so much thereof as shall by such Contract be agreed to be paid by the said County, Riding, or Division, shall be defrayed out of the general Rates of such County, Riding, or Division, in like Manner as the other general Expences of such County, Riding, or Division are by Law now directed to be paid: Provided always, that no such Order of Sessions shall be made unless due Notice of the Intention to propose the same shall have been given in some Newspaper usually circulated in such County, Riding, or Division, Twice at least in each of the last Three Months previously to the holding of the Sessions at which such Order shall be made: Provided also, that no Clerk of the Peace shall be personally liable by virtue of any such Contract.

Previous Notice to be given of such Order.

All Matters transacted in Shire Halls provided under this Act declared valid.

IV. And be it enacted, That all Matters and Things to be done and transacted in any Shire Hall, County Hall, or other Building to be purchased, built, or hired under the Powers of this Act, shall be as good, valid, and effectual to all Intents and Purposes as if the same had been done and transacted in any Shire Hall built under the Powers of the said Act of the Seventh Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Fourth.

Act may be altered this Session.

V. And be it enacted, That this Act may be altered or repealed by any other Act in this present Session of Parliament.

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