

ANNO NONO & DECIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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CAP. LXXVII.

An Act to amend the Acts relating to the Offices of the House of Commons. [26th *August* 1846.]

WHEREAS an Act was passed in the Fifty-second Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act to repeal an Act passed in the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Year of His present Majesty, for establishing certain Regulations in the Offices of the House of Commons; and to establish other and further Regulations in the said Offices:* And whereas another Act was passed in the Third Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *William* the Fourth, intituled *An Act for the better Support of the Dignity of the Speaker of the House of Commons, and for disabling the Speaker of the House of Commons for the Time being from holding any Office or Place of Profit during Pleasure under the Crown:* And whereas another Act was passed in the Fifth Year of the Reign of His said Majesty King *William* the Fourth, intituled *An Act to regulate the Salaries of the Officers of the House of Commons, and to abolish the sinecure Offices of Principal Committee Clerks and Clerk of Ingrossments:* And whereas in pursuance of the said Acts, and of the Recommendations contained in several Reports from Select Committees of the House of Commons, the whole of the Fees and Sums payable in the several Offices and Departments of the said House, as well those mentioned and provided

52 G. 3. c. 11.

2 & 3 W. 4. c. 105.

4 & 5 W. 4. c. 70.

for in the said recited Acts as all other the Fees, Perquisites, and Emoluments payable in the said several Offices and Departments, are now paid to the Account of the Commissioners for regulating the Offices of the House of Commons appointed by virtue of the said first-recited Act, and an Estimate of the Salaries and Expences of the said House is annually laid before the House of Commons; and it is expedient to amend the said Acts: 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 the Person or Persons appointed by the said Commissioners acting under the Provisions of the said first-recited Act to collect the Fees, Perquisites, and Emoluments of the Clerk of the House of Commons, the Clerk's Assistant, the Serjeant-at-Arms, and the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms shall in like Manner collect the Fees, Perquisites, and Emoluments appertaining to the Offices of the Speaker of the House of Commons and of the Speaker's Secretary, and also all Fees, Perquisites, and Emoluments payable in the several Offices of the Clerk of the House of Commons and in the Department of the Serjeant-at-Arms, and shall pay the Money so collected into the Bank of *England* to the Account directed to be established by the said first-recited Act, and called "The Account of the Commissioners for regulating the Offices of the House of Commons;" and the Person so collecting such Sums shall from Time to Time, and at such Times and in such Manner as the Speaker of the House of Commons or the said Commissioners shall direct, render to the said Speaker or Commissioners a full and true Account of all the Sums of Money to be received by him by virtue of this and the said recited Acts.

All Fees, &c. to be collected by the Collector appointed under first-recited Act.

Money collected to be paid into Bank of England to the Account directed by the said Act.

II. And be it enacted, That the Money so paid to the said Account shall be applied, first, in Payment of the Salaries of the Clerk, Clerk's Assistant, Serjeant-at-Arms, Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms, and Speaker's Secretary, as directed by the said Acts, or any other Act for the Time being in force relating to such Offices, and, next, in Payment of the Salaries and Superannuation and other Allowances and Expences in the Offices of the Clerk of the House, and in the Departments of the Speaker and the Serjeant-at-Arms, and in Payment of any other Charges and Expences of the House of Commons, as such Payments may from Time to Time be directed by the said Speaker or by the said Commissioners, in conformity with the Estimate of such Salaries, Allowances, Superannuations, Charges, and Expences directed to be laid before the House of Commons as herein-after mentioned; and in case the Monies standing to the said Account shall in any Year be more than sufficient to pay and discharge all such Salaries and other Charges, the said Commissioners (after retaining in their Hands a Sum sufficient to answer all Demands in respect of the same which may be likely to arise to the First Day of *July* in the following Year) shall, within Six Weeks after the End of the Session, pay the Surplus into the Receipt of the Exchequer to the Credit of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

Application of the Monies so paid to the said Account.

III. And

So much of the said first-recited Act as requires a Plan to be laid before the House of Commons repealed. Instead thereof an Estimate to be prepared of the probable Sums required.

III. And be it enacted, That so much of the said first-recited Act as requires a Statement of the Money remaining to the Account of the said Commissioners, with a Plan of the proposed Expenditure thereof, to be in every Session laid before the House of Commons, shall be repealed; and instead thereof an Estimate shall annually be prepared by the Clerk of the House, the Serjeant-at-Arms, and the Speaker's Secretary respectively of the Sums which will probably be required in their several Departments for the Payment of Salaries, Allowances, and contingent Expences during the Year ending on the First Day of *April* in the following Year; and such Estimates shall be submitted to the Speaker for his Approbation, and, subject to such Approbation, and to such Alterations as the Speaker shall consider proper, shall be embodied, together with an Estimate of the Sums which will be required for the Payment of retired Allowances and Compensation for Loss of Office in One Estimate; and there shall also be prepared under the Direction of the Speaker an Estimate of the Money which will probably remain in the Hands of the Commissioners after the Payments of the current Quarter ending on the First Day of *April*, and of the Fees expected to be received during the then Session, and of any Sum which may be required to be provided by Parliament, in addition to such Sums for the Payments set forth in the said Estimate of Expenditure; and such Estimates, signed by the Speaker, shall be transmitted by him to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for their Approval, and shall be laid before the House of Commons with the other Estimates.

Estimates to be transmitted to Treasury, and laid before House of Commons with other Estimates.

Salaries, &c. to be paid by the Paymaster of the House of Commons.

IV. And be it enacted, That all the said Salaries, Allowances, and Expences shall be paid according to the Directions of the Speaker from Time to Time, and the said Commissioners shall appoint an Officer for that Purpose, who shall be called the Paymaster of the House of Commons, and shall take from him such Security for the faithful Discharge of his Office as they shall think fit; and an Account shall be opened at the Bank of *England* in the Name of the said Paymaster; and the Commissioners appointed under the said first-recited Acts shall from Time to Time transfer such Sums as they shall deem necessary for that Purpose from the Account of the said Commissioners at the Bank of *England* to the said Account of the said Paymaster by an Order signed by the Speaker of the House of Commons and One other of the said Commissioners; and in case of the Death or Removal from Office of any such Paymaster, the Monies standing to his Credit in the Account aforesaid shall be forthwith transferred to the Account of the said Commissioners at the said Bank.

Money to be transferred by Commissioners to Account of Paymaster.

Speaker to act notwithstanding Dissolution of Parliament.

V. And be it enacted, That for the Purposes of the said first-recited Act and this Act the Person who shall fill the Office of Speaker of the House of Commons at the Time of any Dissolution of Parliament shall be deemed to be the Speaker until a Speaker shall be chosen by the new Parliament, and that in the event of the Death or Disability or Absence from the Realm of the Speaker during any Dissolution or Prorogation of Parliament, it shall be lawful for any Three of the said Commissioners to execute any of the Purposes of the said first-recited Act or this Act.

VI. Pro-

Payments may be advanced if the Estimate be deficient.

VI. Provided always, and be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, upon Application of the Clerk of the House of Commons in respect of his Offices, and of the Serjeant-at-Arms in respect of his Department, and of the Speaker's Secretary in respect of the Department of the Speaker, to direct such further Sums to be advanced beyond those stated in the said Estimate of Expenditure as to them shall seem right to make good any unexpected Payments or Expences which shall not have been provided for in such Estimate; and an Account of all such Payments shall be laid before the House of Commons in the ensuing Session, with the Estimate for that Year.

Account to be laid before the House.

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