

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO SECUNDO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. CXLIV.

An Act to ſuſpend and finally vacate the Seats of Members of the Houſe of Commons, who ſhall become Bankrupts, and who ſhall not pay their Debts in full within a limited Time.

[23d *July* 1812.]

WHEREAS it is highly neceſſary, for the Preſervation of the Dignity and Independence of Parliament, that Members of the Houſe of Commons of the United Kingdom, who become Bankrupts, and do not pay their Debts in full, ſhall not retain their Seats: Be it therefore 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, whenever a Commiſſion of Bankruptcy ſhall iſſue and be awarded againſt any Perſon being a Member of the Houſe of Commons, and he ſhall be found and declared a Bankrupt under the ſame, ſuch Member ſhall be and ſhall remain during Twelve Calendar Months from the Time of the iſſuing thereof, utterly incapable of ſitting and voting in the ſaid Houſe of Commons, unleſs within the ſaid Period ſuch Commiſſion ſhall be ſuperſeded, or unleſs within the ſame Period the Creditors of ſuch Member of the Houſe of Commons proving their Debts under the Commiſſion of Bankruptcy ſhall be paid or ſatisfied to the full Amount of their Debts, under the ſaid Commiſſion: Provided always, that ſuch of the Debts, if any, as ſhall be diſputed by ſuch Bankrupt, if he ſhall, within the Time aforeſaid, enter into a Bond or Bonds, in ſuch Sum or Sums, with Two ſufficient Sureties to be approved by the Commiſſioners under the ſaid Commiſſion of Bankruptcy, or

Declaring Seats of Members to be vacant in certain Caſes of Bankruptcy:

or the major Part of them, to pay such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be recovered in any Action, Suit, or other Proceeding in Law or Equity, concerning such Debt or Debts, together with such Costs as shall be given in the same, shall be considered for the Purposes of this Act as paid or satisfied.

And the Speaker to issue his Writ for the Election of another Member.

II. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the said Commission shall not within Twelve Calendar Months from the issuing thereof be superseded, nor the Debts satisfied in Manner aforesaid, then the Commissioners, or the major Part of them named in such Commission, shall and they are hereby required, immediately after the Expiration of Twelve Calendar Months from the issuing of the said Commission, to certify the same, as the Case may be, to the Speaker of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, and thereupon the Election of such Member shall be and is hereby declared to be void; and it shall and may be lawful for the Speaker of the House of Commons for the Time being, during any Recess of the said House, whether by Prorogation or Adjournment, and he is hereby required forthwith after receiving such Certificate, to cause Notice thereof to be inserted in *The London Gazette*, and upon the Expiration of Fourteen Days after the Day of inserting such Notice in the *Gazette*, to issue his Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown, to make out a new Writ for electing another Member in the room of such Member who shall have so vacated his Seat: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend to enable the Speaker of the House of Commons to issue his Warrant for the Purposes aforesaid, unless such Certificate shall have been delivered to him so long before the then next Meeting of the House of Commons for the Dispatch of Business, as that the Writ for the Election may be issued before the Day of such next Meeting of the House of Commons.

Extending the Provisions of 24 G. 3. c. 26.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every of the Powers contained in an Act of the Twenty-fourth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, for repealing so much of Two former Acts, as authorized the Speaker of the House of Commons to issue his Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown for making out Writs for the Election of Members to serve in Parliament in the Manner therein mentioned, and for substituting other Provisions for the like Purposes, so far as such Powers enable the Speaker of the House of Commons to nominate and appoint other Persons, being Members of the House of Commons, to issue Warrants for the making out of new Writs during the Vacancy of the Office of Speaker, or during his Absence out of the Realm, shall be and they are hereby made to be in force for the Purpose of enabling him to make the like Nomination and Appointment for issuing Warrants under the like Circumstances and Conditions, for the Election of Members of Parliament in the room of such whose Seats shall become vacant under the Provisions of this Act.

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