ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO QUARTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

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C A P. CLXX.

An Act to repeal certain Proviſions in Local Acts, for the Maintenance and Regulation of the Poor; and to make other Proviſions in relation thereto. [30th *July* 1814.]

WHEREAS divers Local Acts of Parliament have lately paſſed, containing Enactments relative to the Maintenance and Regulation of the Poor, varying the general Law with reſpect of particular Diſtricts, Pariſhes, Townſhips, or Hamlets; and it is expedient, that ſome of ſuch Enactments ſhould be repealed, and that other Proviſions contained in ſuch Acts, ſhould be made general; be it therefore enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice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 all Enactments and Proviſions contained in any Act or Acts of Parliament, ſince the Commencement of the Reign of His late Majeſty *George* the Firſt, whereby any Alteration is made, in reſpect of gaining or not gaining a Settlement within any particular Diſtrict, Pariſh, Townſhip or Hamlet, ſhall be, and the ſame are hereby repealed; and that all and every Perſon ſhall be deemed and taken to have acquired and to acquire a Settlement in every ſuch Diſtrict, Pariſh, Townſhip, or Hamlet, by any Ways or Means he, ſhe, or they would or might have done, or would or might do, in caſe ſuch Act or Acts, or any of them, had not been made and paſſed, and notwithſtanding the ſame or any of them are or was in force and operation.

All Enactments and Proviſions in reſpect of gaining Settlements contained in Local Acts, repealed.

16 P

II. Provided

Persons born in Prisons, or Houses licensed for the Reception of Pregnant Women, not to gain a Settlement thereby.

II. Provided always, That no Person shall be deemed or taken to acquire any Settlement in any District, Parish, Townships, or Hamlet, by reason of such Person being born of the Body of any Mother actually confined as a Prisoner within the Walls of any Prison, or any House licensed for the Reception of pregnant Women, in pursuance of an Act made and passed in the Thirteenth Year of His present Majesty's Reign, for the better Regulation of Lying-in Hospitals, and other Places appropriated for the charitable Reception of pregnant Women; in which any such Prison or House shall be situated.

Provision respecting Settlements by reason of Birth in any Poor House or House of Industry belonging to united Parishes.

III. Provided always, That whensoever any Person shall be born of the Body of any poor Person, in any House of Industry, or House for the Reception and Care of the Poor of any District, Parish, Townships, or Hamlet, which shall be locally situated in any District, Parish, Townships, or Hamlet, contributing to the Expences of maintaining the Poor in such House, or in any other District, Parish, Townships, or Hamlet, not contributing to such Expence, such Person shall, so far as regards the Settlement of such Person, be deemed and taken to be born in the District, Parish, Townships, or Hamlet, by whom the Mother of such Person was sent to, and on whose Account the Mother of such Person was received and maintained in such House.

Prisoners for Debt or Contempt not to gain Settlements while in Custody.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Person shall be deemed or taken to gain any Settlement by reason of any Residence within any District, Parish, Townships, or Hamlet, while he, she, or they shall be detained or confined as a Prisoner within any such District, Parish, Townships, or Hamlet, on any Civil Process or for any Contempt whatsoever.

No Gatekeeper or Person residing in any Toll House to gain a Settlement thereby.

V. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Gatekeeper or Tollkeeper of any Turnpike Road or Navigation, or Person renting the Tolls and residing in any Toll House of any Turnpike Road or Navigation, shall thereby gain any Settlement in any District, Parish, Townships, or Hamlet.

No Person maintained in any Charitable Institution, to gain any Settlement by Residence therein.

VI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Person or Persons shall gain any Settlement in any District, Parish, Townships or Hamlet, by reason of any Residence in any House or other Dwelling Place provided for the Residence of such Person or Persons by any Charitable Institution, while such Person or Persons shall be supported and maintained at the Expence of such Charitable Institution, as an Object or Objects of such Charity.

Masters, &c. of Poor House not to punish or confine beyond a limited Time.

VII. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for the Master, Governor, or other Person entrusted with the Superintendance of any House for the Reception of Poor Persons, or the Churchwarden, Overseer, or other Persons elected, constituted, or appointed, by or under the Authority of any Act or Acts of Parliament for the Controul or Management of the Poor of any District, Parish, Townships, or Hamlet, to punish with any Corporal Punishment whatsoever, any adult Person or Persons under his, her, or their Care or Charge, for any Offence or Misbehaviour whatsoever; or to confine any such Person or Persons whatsoever, for any Offence or Misbehaviour,

behaviour, for any longer or greater Space of Time than Twenty-four Hours, or such further Space of Time as may be necessary, in order to have such Person or Persons before a Justice of the Peace; any Thing in any Act or Acts of Parliament contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Overseers may sue on Securities to indemnify against Bastards.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That all Securities given or received, or hereafter to be given, for indemnifying any District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet, for the Maintenance of any Bastard Child or Children respectively, or any Expences in any way occasioned by such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet, by reason of the Birth or Support of any Bastard Child or Children born within such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet, or chargeable thereto, shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be vested in the Overseers of the Poor of such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet for the Time being; and that it shall and may be lawful for the Overseers of the Poor of such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet, to sue for the same as and by their Description of Overseers of such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet; and such Action, so commenced by such Overseers shall in no ways abate by reason of any Change of Overseers of such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet, pending the same, but shall be proceeded in by such Overseers for the Time being as if no such Change had taken place, any Law, Usage, Statute, or Custom to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Inhabitants not to be incompetent Witnesses in certain Cases on behalf of or against their Parishes.

IX. And be it further enacted, That no Inhabitant or Person rated or liable to be rated to any Rates or Cesses of any District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet, or wholly or in Part maintained or supported thereby, or executing or holding any Office thereof or therein, shall, before any Court or Person or Persons whatsoever, be deemed and taken to be by reason thereof an incompetent Witness for or against such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet, in any Matter relating to such Rates or Cesses; or to the Boundary between such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet, and any adjoining District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet; or to any Order of Removal to or from such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet; or the Settlement of any Pauper in such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet; or touching any Bastards chargeable or likely to become chargeable to such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet; or the Recovery of any Sum or Sums for the Charges or Maintenance of such Bastards; or the Election or Appointment of any Officer or Officers, or the Allowance of the Accounts of any Officer or Officers of any such District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet; any Law, Usage, Statute, or Custom, to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Paupers ordered to be removed, may be conveyed by other Persons than Churchwardens or Overseers.

X. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Churchwardens, Overseers, or others having the Controul, Ordering, or Management of the Poor of any District, Parish, Township, or Hamlet, to employ any proper Person or Persons whomsoever, to carry, remove, and deliver any Pauper or Paupers ordered to be removed by any of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, competent to make such Order; and that a Delivery by such Person or Persons of any Pauper or Paupers so ordered to be removed, shall be as good, valid, and effectual, to all Purposes whatsoever, as if the same was or were delivered by any Churchwarden or Overseer whatsoever.

XI. And

Juſtices out of Seſſions, with Conſent of Pariſh Officers, may diſcharge Paupers from the Payment of Pariſh Rates.

XI. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Two or more of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace acting for the County, Riding, Diviſion, or Juriſdiction, in which any Diſtrict, Pariſh, Townſhip, or Hamlet ſhall be ſituated, in Petty Seſſions aſſembled, on Application made to them by any Perſon rated to any Rates or Ceſſes within any ſuch Diſtrict, Townſhip, Pariſh, or Hamlet, to be diſcharged therefrom, and Proof of his or her Inability through Poverty to pay ſuch Rate or Ceſs, with the Conſent of the Churchwardens and Overſeers of ſuch Diſtrict, Pariſh, Townſhip, or Hamlet, or of ſuch other Perſon or Perſons as is or are competent to act, under the Authority of any Act or Acts of Parliament, for the Ordering, Management, Controul, or Direction of the Poor of any ſuch Diſtrict, Pariſh, Townſhip, or Hamlet, to order and direct that ſuch Perſon ſhall be excuſed from the Payment of ſuch Rate or Ceſs, and to ſtrike out his or her Name therefrom; and the Sum at which ſuch Perſon was ſo rated in ſuch Rate or Ceſs ſhall not thereafter be collected, or any Perſon or Perſons charged therewith, or in any Manner called or liable to account for the ſame, or for omitting to collect or receive the ſame.

Diſtreſs for Poors Rate, &c. if not to be found within the Diſtrict, &c. may be made out of the Diſtrict.

XII. And be it further enacted, That the Goods and Chattels of any Perſon or Perſons neglecting or refuſing to pay any Sum or Sums of Money legally aſſeſſed on and due from him, her, or them, in reſpect of any Rate for the Relief of the Poor, Church Ceſs, or Highway Ceſs, of any Diſtrict, Pariſh, Townſhip, or Hamlet, for the Space of Seven Days after the ſame ſhall have been legally demanded of him, her, or them, ſhall and may be diſtrained, not only within ſuch Diſtrict, Pariſh, Townſhip, or Hamlet, but alſo within any other Diſtrict, Pariſh, Townſhip, or Hamlet, within the ſame County, Riding, Diviſion, or Juriſdiction; and if ſufficient Diſtreſs cannot be found within the ſame County, Riding, Diviſion, or Juriſdiction, then, upon Oath thereof made before any One or more Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace of any other County, Riding, Diviſion, or Juriſdiction, in which any of the Goods or Chattels of ſuch Perſons ſhall be found; which Oath ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices are hereby required to adminiſter and certify, by indorſing in his or their reſpective Handwriting, his or their Name or Names, on the Warrant granted to make ſuch Diſtreſs, the Goods and Chattels of the ſaid Perſon or Perſons ſo neglecting or refuſing to pay as aforeſaid, ſhall be ſubject and liable to ſuch Diſtreſs and Sale, in ſuch other County, Riding, Diviſion, or Juriſdiction, where the ſame ſhall be found; and may, by virtue of ſuch Warrant and Certificate, be diſtrained and ſold in the ſame Manner as if the ſame had been found within the Diſtrict, Pariſh, Townſhip, or Hamlet, in or for which ſuch Rate or Ceſs had been made or was due.

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