

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO NONO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XII.

An Act to amend the Laws for the Relief of the Poor. [31st *March* 1819.]

FOR the better and more effectual Execution of the Laws for the Relief of the Poor, and for the Amendment thereof; May it please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it 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 it shall be lawful for the Inhabitants of any Parish, in Vestry assembled, and they are hereby empowered, to establish a Select Vestry for the Concerns of the Poor of such Parish; and to that end to nominate and elect, in the same or in any subsequent Vestry, or any Adjournment thereof respectively, such and so many substantial Householders or Occupiers within such Parish, not exceeding the Number of Twenty nor less than Five, as shall in any such Vestry be thought fit to be Members of the Select Vestry; and the Rector, Vicar, or other Minister of the Parish, and in his Absence the Curate thereof (such Curate being resident in and charged to the Poor's Rates of such Parish), and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the Time being, together with the Inhabitants who shall be nominated and elected as aforesaid (such Inhabitants being first thereto appointed by Writing under the Hand and Seal of One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, which Appointment he is hereby authorized and required to make), shall be and constitute a Select Vestry for the Care and Management of the Concerns of the Poor of such Parish; and any Three

Parishes empowered to establish Select Vestries for the Concerns of the Poor.

Constitution of Select Vestries.

Members elected to be appointed by a Justice.

Vacancies to be supplied.

Three of them (Two of whom shall neither be Churchwardens nor Overseers of the Poor) shall be a Quorum; and when any Inhabitant elected and appointed to serve in any such Select Vestry shall, before the Expiration of his Office, die or remove from the Parish, or shall become incapable of serving, or shall refuse or neglect to serve therein, the Vacancy which shall be thereby occasioned shall, as soon as conveniently may be, be filled up by the Election and Appointment, in manner aforesaid, of some other substantial Householder or Occupier of such Parish, and so from Time to Time as often as any such Vacancy shall occur; and every such Select Vestry shall continue and be empowered to act from the Time of the Appointment thereof until Fourteen Days after the next annual Appointment of Overseers of the Poor of the Parish shall take place, and may be from Year to Year, and in any future Year, renewed in the Manner herein-before directed; and every such Select Vestry shall meet once in every Fourteen Days, and oftener if it shall be found necessary, in the Parish Church, or in some other convenient Place within the Parish; and at every such Meeting a Chairman shall be appointed by the Majority of the Members present, who shall preside therein; and in all Cases of Equality of Votes upon any Question there arising, the Chairman shall have the casting Vote; and every such Select Vestry is hereby empowered and required to examine into the State and Condition of the Poor of the Parish, and to inquire into and determine upon the proper Objects of Relief, and the Nature and Amount of the Relief to be given; and in each Case shall take into Consideration the Character and Conduct of the poor Person to be relieved, and shall be at Liberty to distinguish, in the Relief to be granted, between the deserving, and the idle, extravagant, or profligate Poor; and such Select Vestry shall make Orders in Writing for such Relief as they shall think requisite, and shall inquire into and superintend the Collection and Administration of all Money to be raised by the Poor's Rates, and of all other Funds and Money raised or applied by the Parish to the Relief of the Poor; and where any such Select Vestry shall be established, the Overseers of the Poor are required, in the Execution of their Office, to conform to the Directions of the Select Vestry, and shall not (except in Cases of sudden Emergency or urgent Necessity, and to the Extent only of such temporary Relief as each Case shall require, and except by Order of Justices, in the Cases herein-after provided for,) give any further or other Relief or Allowance to the Poor, than such as shall be ordered by the Select Vestry.

Continuance of Select Vestries.

Power of Renewal.

Meetings and Duties of Select Vestries.

Overseers (except in Cases of Emergency) to give no other Relief than such as shall be ordered by the Select Vestry.

Justices empowered to order Relief in certain Cases for a limited Time.

II. And be it further enacted, That when any Complaint shall be made to any Justice of the Peace, of the Want of adequate Relief, by or on the Behalf of any poor Inhabitant of any Parish for which a Select Vestry shall be established by virtue of this Act, or in which the Relief of the Poor is or shall be under the Management of Guardians, Governors, or Directors appointed by virtue of Special or Local Acts, such Justice shall not proceed therein, or take Cognizance thereof, unless it shall be proved on Oath before him, that Application for such Relief hath been first made to and refused by the Select Vestry, or by such Guardians, Governors, or Directors; and in such Case, the Justice to whom the Complaint shall be made may summon the Overseers of the

Poor, or any of them, to appear before any Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, to answer the Complaint; and if upon the hearing thereof it shall be proved on Oath, to the Satisfaction of the Justices who shall hear the same, that the Party complaining, or on whose Behalf the Complaint shall be made, is in Need of Relief, and that adequate Relief hath been refused by the Select Vestry, or by such Guardians, Governors, or Directors, or that such Select Vestry shall not have assembled as by this Act directed, it shall be lawful for such Justices to make an Order, under their Hands and Seals, for such Relief as they, in their just and proper Discretion, shall think necessary (Reference being also had by such Justices to the Character and Conduct of the Applicant); provided, that in every such Order the Special Cause of granting the Relief thereby directed shall be expressly stated, and that no such Order shall be given for or extend to any longer Time than One Month from the Date thereof: Provided that it shall be lawful for any Justice to make an Order for Relief in any Case of urgent Necessity, to be specified in such Order, so as such Order shall remain in force only until the assembling of the Select Vestry of the Parish, or of such Guardians, Governors, or Directors, as aforesaid, to which such Case shall relate.

One Justice may order temporary Relief, in Cases of urgent Necessity.

III. And be it further enacted, That every Select Vestry, to be established by the Authority of this Act, shall cause Minutes to be fairly entered in Books, to be for that Purpose provided, of all their Meetings, Proceedings, Resolutions, Orders and Transactions, and of all Sums received, applied, and expended by their Direction; and such Minutes shall from Time to Time be signed by the Chairman; and shall, together with a Summary or Report of the Accounts and Transactions of the Select Vestry, be laid before the Inhabitants of the Parish in General Vestry assembled, Twice in every Year, that is to say, in the Month of *March* and the Month of *October*, and at such other Times as the Select Vestry shall think fit; and the Minutes, Proceedings, Accounts, and Reports of every Select Vestry, shall belong to the Parish, and be preserved with the other Books, Documents, Accounts, and public Papers thereof.

Minutes to be kept of the Proceedings of Select Vestries.

Minutes of Select Vestries, and Reports of their Proceedings, to be laid before the Inhabitants in General Vestry.

IV. Provided, and be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor shall cause Ten Days Notice, at the least, to be publicly given, in the usual Manner, of every Vestry to be holden for the Purpose of establishing any Select Vestry, or of nominating and electing the Members, or any Member thereof, and of every Vestry to be holden for the Purpose of receiving the Report of the Select Vestry; and every Notice of any such Vestry shall state the Special Purpose thereof.

Notice to be given of Vestries for the Establishment and Election of Members, and for receiving Reports of Select Vestries.

V. And be it further enacted, That every Order to be made, after the First Day of *May* next, for the Relief of any poor Person, by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish not having a Select Vestry, under the Authority of this Act, shall be made by Two or more Justices, who shall, in making every such Order, take into their Consideration the Character and Conduct of the Person applying for Relief; provided that in every such Order the Special Cause of granting the Relief thereby directed shall be expressly stated, and

Every Order for Relief, in Parishes not having a Select Vestry, shall be made, by Two or more Justices,

except in Cases of Emergency. Limitation of Order.

and that no such Order shall be given for or extend to any longer Time than One Month from the Date thereof: Provided also, that in Cases of Emergency and urgent Distress, it shall be lawful for One Justice to order such Relief as the Case shall require, stating in his Order the Circumstances of the Case; but no such last-mentioned Order shall entitle any Person to claim Relief by virtue thereof more than Fourteen Days from the Date of the Order, nor shall the same have any Force or Effect after the next Petty Session to be holden within the Hundred or other Division or District in which the Parish to which the same shall apply shall be situated.

Power to appoint non-resident Overseers.

VI. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in their respective Special Sessions for the Appointment of Overseers of the Poor, upon the Nomination and at the Request of the Inhabitants of any Parish in Vestry assembled, to appoint any Person who shall be assessed to the Relief of the Poor thereof, and shall be a Householder resident within Two Miles from the Church or Chapel of such Parish, or where there shall be no Church or Chapel, shall be resident within One Mile from the Boundary of such Parish, to be an Overseer of the Poor thereof, although the Person so to be appointed shall not be an Householder within the Parish of which he shall be so appointed an Overseer of the Poor; and it shall be sufficient, in every such Appointment, to describe the Person appointed by his Name and Residence; provided that no Person shall be appointed to, or be compellable to serve the Office of Overseer of the Poor of any Parish or Place in which he shall not be a Householder, unless he shall have consented to such Appointment.

Assistant Overseer may be appointed.

VII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Inhabitants of any Parish in Vestry assembled, to nominate and elect any discreet Person or Persons to be Assistant Overseer or Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, and to determine and specify the Duties to be by or them executed and performed, and to fix such yearly Salary for the Execution of the said Office as shall by such Inhabitants in Vestry be thought fit; and it shall be lawful for any Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and they are hereby empowered, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to appoint any Person or Persons who shall be so nominated and elected to be Assistant Overseer or Overseers of the Poor, for such Purposes, and with such Salary, as shall have been fixed by the Inhabitants in Vestry; and such Salary shall be paid out of the Money raised for the Relief of the Poor, at such Times and in such Manner as shall have been agreed upon between the Inhabitants in Vestry and the respective Persons so to be appointed; and every Person to be so appointed Assistant Overseer shall be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to execute all such of the Duties of the Office of Overseer of the Poor as shall in the Warrant for his Appointment be expressed, in like Manner and as fully, to all Intents and Purposes, as the same may be executed by any ordinary Overseer of the Poor; and every Person or Persons so appointed shall continue to be an Assistant Overseer of the Poor until he or they shall resign such Office, or until his or their Appointment shall be revoked by the Inhabitants of the Parish in Vestry assembled, and no longer; and it shall be lawful for the Inhabitants

of any Parish, upon the Nomination and Election by them of an Assistant Overseer or Overseers, to require and take Security for the faithful Execution of his or their Office, by Bond, with or without a Surety or Sureties, and in such Penalty as they shall think fit; and every such Bond shall be made to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, and may, on any Breach of the Condition thereof, be put in Suit by and in the Names of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the Time being, by the Direction of the Vestry or Select Vestry, for the Benefit of the Parish, in the Manner herein-after provided. Security may be taken.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That in any Parish not having a Workhouse for the Poor thereof, or where the Workhouse shall be found insufficient or inconvenient, it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, by the Direction of the Inhabitants in Vestry assembled, to erect and build in such Parish a suitable Workhouse, or to alter and enlarge any Messuage or Tenement belonging to such Parish for that Purpose, and to purchase or take on Lease any Ground within the Parish for the Purpose of such Building, or for enlarging any such other Messuage or Tenement belonging to such Parish for that Purpose; or such Churchwardens and Overseers may and they are hereby authorized to add to and enlarge any such insufficient Workhouse, as the Inhabitants of the Parish in Vestry shall think fit and direct. Power to build or enlarge Workhouses.

IX. And whereas it would be advisable to enable Parishes to sell and dispose of their present Workhouses, or any other Houses or Tenements belonging to such Parishes, in Cases where the same are insufficient and incapable of being enlarged or used as Workhouses, and to apply the Produce thereof in aid of building new Workhouses; be it therefore enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, and they are hereby authorized, by the Direction of the Inhabitants in Vestry assembled, and with the Consent of Two Justices, to be certified under their Hands, to sell and dispose of any Workhouse, or any other Houses or Tenements belonging to such Parish which shall be found to be insufficient or unfit for the Purpose, with the Site thereof, and the Outhouses, Offices, Yards, and Gardens thereto belonging, for the best Price and Prices that can be reasonably obtained, and to convey and assure the same to the Purchaser or Purchasers thereof, his, her, or their Heirs and Assigns, or as he, she, or they shall direct, and to apply the Produce of such Sale, after deducting the reasonable Expences thereof, towards the Purchase or Building of a new Workhouse, or in or towards the Payment of any Money to be borrowed under the Authority of this Act, as the Inhabitants in Vestry shall direct. Workhouses insufficient may be sold.

X. And whereas there may be Parishes in which no sufficient Poorhouse or Workhouse can be procured for the Accommodation of the Poor thereof; be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of every such Parish, by the Direction of the Inhabitants thereof, in Vestry assembled, to purchase or hire any suitable and convenient House or Houses, Where no Poorhouse, &c. can be procured in the Parish, adjoining Parish maybe resorted to:

Houses, Building or Buildings, for that Purpose, in any adjoining Parish, with the Consent of Two or more Justices, such Consent to be written upon or annexed to the Agreement for purchasing or hiring such House or Houses, Building or Buildings: Provided always, that no such House or Building shall be situate more than Three Miles from the Parish for which the same shall be purchased or hired.

Which Building, as to Settlement, shall be in the Parish so purchasing or hiring.

XI. And be it further enacted, That every House and Building which shall be so purchased or hired, shall in all Questions relative to the Settlement of Persons born or lodged therein, be deemed and taken to be Part of the Parish on Behalf of which the same shall be purchased or hired, and by which the same shall be used as a Poor-house or Workhouse.

Parishes may provide Land for the Employment of the Poor,

XII. And whereas, by an Act passed in the Forty-third Year of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor are directed to set to work certain Persons therein described: And whereas by the Laws now in force sufficient Powers are not given to the Churchwardens and Overseers, to enable them to keep such Persons fully and constantly employed; be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, with the Consent of the Inhabitants thereof in Vestry assembled, to take into their Hands any Land or Ground which shall belong to such Parish, or to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, or to the Poor thereof, or to purchase, or to hire and take on Lease for and on Account of the Parish, any suitable Portion or Portions of Land within or near to such Parish, not exceeding Twenty Acres in the whole; and to employ and set to work in the Cultivation of such Land, on account of the Parish, any such Persons as by Law they are directed to set to work, and to pay to such of the poor Persons so employed as shall not be supported by the Parish, reasonable Wages for their Work; and the poor Persons so employed shall have such and the like Remedies for the Recovery of their Wages, and shall be subject to such and the like Punishment for Misbehaviour in their Employment, as other Labourers in Husbandry are by Law entitled and subject to.

not exceeding 20 Acres:

And may let Portions of Land to poor Inhabitants.

XIII. Provided, and be it further enacted, That for the Promotion of Industry amongst the Poor, it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, with the Consent of the Inhabitants in Vestry assembled, to let any Portion and Portions of such Parish Land as aforesaid, or of the Land to be so purchased or taken on Account of the Parish, to any poor and industrious Inhabitant of the Parish, to be by him or her occupied and cultivated on his or her own Account, and for his or her own Benefit, at such reasonable Rent and for such Term as shall by the Inhabitants in Vestry be fixed and determined.

Limiting the Amount to be raised for Buildings, and the Purchase of Lands, &c.

XIV. Provided, and be it further enacted, That no Sum exceeding the Amount of a Rate or Assessment at One Shilling in the Pound upon the Annual Value of the Property in any Parish assessable to the Rates for the Relief of the Poor, shall be raised, expended, or applied

plied in any One Year, in purchasing, building, and repairing any Buildings or Land by this Act authorized to be purchased, taken, built, or repaired, and in fitting up, preparing, and furnishing such Buildings, and in stocking such Land, or for any One or more of such Purposes or Objects, unless the major Part of the Inhabitants and Occupiers assessed to the Relief of the Poor, in Vestry assembled, shall consent thereto, nor until Two-third Parts in Value of all the Inhabitants and Occupiers so assessed as aforesaid (whether present in Vestry or not) shall have also signed their Consent thereto in the Vestry or Parish Book.

Power to raise further Sums by Loans, or by the Sale of Annuities.

XV. And be it further enacted, That in every Case where the Inhabitants of any Parish shall in manner aforesaid consent that a greater Sum than the Amount of a Rate or Assessment of One Shilling in the Pound will raise, shall be expended in One Year for all or any of such Purposes and Objects, it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, with the Consent of such Majority as aforesaid of the Inhabitants and Occupiers thereof, to be given and signed in the Manner herein-before directed (after the Rate or Rates at or amounting to One Shilling in the Pound shall have been actually levied and applied for such Purposes or some of them), to raise any additional Sum or Sums, by Loan, or by Sale of an Annuity or of Annuities or any Life or Lives, not being under the Age of Fifty Years respectively, or for any certain Term not exceeding Fifteen Years, so as the whole Sum to be raised for all or any of such Purposes by Loan, and by the Sale of Annuities, or by either of such Means, shall not be more than Five Shillings in the Pound of or upon the true Annual Value of the Property which shall in such Parish be assessed to the Poor's Rates (every Proposal for any such Annuity being first stated to and approved by the Inhabitants and Occupiers of such Parish in Vestry assembled); and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor shall and they are hereby authorized, in the Names and on the Behalf of the Inhabitants of the Parish, to sign and execute Securities for the Money which shall be so borrowed, and for the Annuities to be so granted; and by every such Security to charge the Produce of the future Rates to be made for the Relief of the Poor of every such Parish with the Repayment of the principal Sum which shall have been so borrowed, and the Interest thereof, or with the Payment of the Annuity thereby granted (as the Case may be), at and upon the Days and Times, and in such Manner and Proportions, as in and by the Security for every such Loan and Annuity respectively shall be appointed and expressed for the Payment thereof; and the Money to be raised by such future Rates shall be subject and liable to the Payment of every such Loan and the Interest thereof, and of every such Annuity accordingly.

Future Rates charged with Loans and Annuities.

No greater Rate than 1s. in the Pound shall be charged on future Rates, unless with Consent of Two-thirds

XVI. Provided nevertheless, and be it enacted, That no greater Sum in the Whole than the Amount of a Rate or Assessment at One Shilling in the Pound, shall in any Parish be charged upon the future Rates thereof, unless Two-third Parts in Value of the Proprietors of Messuages, Lands, and Tenements within such Parish (whether for Estates of Freehold or Copyhold, or by virtue of Leases for Terms of not less than Fifteen Years absolute or determinable upon a Life or Lives) shall

in Value of the Proprietors of Premises.

shall have consented to raise the Money for which the Charge or Security shall purport to be made; such Consents to be given by Writing under the Hands of all Persons and Corporations Sole, and the Consent of every Corporation Aggregate under the Hand of the President, Head, or Chief Member thereof for the Time being, and the Consents of Femes Covert, Minors, Insane Persons, and Persons out of the Kingdom, by and under the Hands of their respective Husbands, Guardians, Committees, Trustees, Attornies or Agents, who are respectively authorized to give such Consents, and the Consent of the major Part of the Trustees for any Charitable or other Purpose shall be sufficient in respect of the Trust Estates.

Churchwardens and Overseers may take and sue as Bodies Corporate.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That all Buildings, Lands, and Hereditaments, which shall be purchased, hired, or taken on Lease by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, by the Authority and for any of the Purposes of this Act, shall be conveyed, demised, and assured to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of every such Parish respectively, and their Successors, in Trust for the Parish; and such Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, and their Successors, shall and may and they are hereby empowered to accept, take, and hold, in the Nature of a Body Corporate, for and on Behalf of the Parish, all such Buildings, Lands, and Hereditaments, and also all other Buildings, Lands, and Hereditaments belonging to such Parish; and in all Actions, Suits, Indictments, and other Proceedings for or in relation to any such Buildings, Land, or Hereditaments, or the Rent thereof, or for or in relation to any other Buildings, Lands, or Hereditaments belonging to such Parish, or the Rent thereof, and in all Actions and Proceedings upon or in relation to any Bond to be given for the faithful Execution of the Office of an Assistant Overseer, it shall be sufficient to name the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the Time being, describing them as the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish for which they shall act, and naming such Parish; and no Action or Suit, Indictment or other Proceeding, shall cease, abate, or be discontinued, quashed, defeated, or impeded, by the Death of the Churchwardens and Overseers named in such Proceeding, or the Deaths or Death of any of them, or by their Removal or the Removal of any of them from, or the Expiration of, their respective Offices.

Incapacitated Persons empowered to convey. Powers and Directions of 22 G.3. c.83. as to Sales, &c. applied to this Act.

XVIII. And it is hereby further enacted, That the Clauses, Powers, Provisions, and Directions contained in an Act passed in the Twenty-second Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act for the Relief and Employment of the Poor*, for the Purpose of enabling Bodies Politic and Corporate, Trustees, Guardians, and incapacitated Persons, to contract for the Sale of and to convey and lease Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, for the Purposes in that Act expressed, and for and with regard to the Payment and Application of the Purchase Money to be paid for the Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments to be purchased by virtue of the said Act, shall extend and be applied to all Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments to be purchased, hired, or taken for the Purposes and under the Authority of this Act, and to the Payment and Application of the

Purchase Money for the same, as fully and effectually to all Intents and Purposes as if such Clauses, Powers, Provisions, and Directions were herein repeated and contained, and were hereby expressly enacted and applied to Lands and Buildings to be purchased and taken on Lease for any of the Purposes of this Act.

Power to rate Owners of certain Houses instead of the Occupiers.

XIX. And whereas in many Parishes, and more especially in large and populous Towns, the Payment of the Poor's Rates is greatly evaded, by reason that great Numbers of Houses within such Parishes are let out in Lodgings, or in separate Apartments, or for short Terms, or are let to Tenants who quit their Residences or become insolvent before the Rates charged on them can be collected; and it hath been found, that in many Instances the Persons letting such Houses do actually charge and receive much higher Rents for the same, upon the Ground and Expectation that the Occupiers thereof cannot be effectually assessed to the Poor's Rates, and will not be charged with or required to pay such Rates, and do thus obtain an undue Advantage to themselves, and by means of the Premises the other Inhabitants of such Parishes are unjustly compelled to pay much more than their fair and due Proportions of the Charges of relieving and maintaining the Poor; for Remedy thereof be it further enacted, That from and after the First Day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and twenty, it shall be lawful for the Inhabitants of any Parish, in Vestry assembled, and they are hereby empowered, to resolve and direct, that the Owner or Owners of all Houses, Apartments, or Dwellings in such Parishes, being the immediate Lessor or Lessors of the actual Occupier or Occupiers, which shall respectively be let to the Occupiers thereof at any Rent or Rate not exceeding Twenty Pounds, nor less than Six Pounds by the Year, for any less Term than One Year, or on any Agreement by which the Rent shall be reserved or made payable at any shorter Period than Three Months, shall be assessed to the Rates for the Relief of the Poor, for or in respect of such Houses, Apartments, or Dwellings, and the Outhouses and Curtilages thereof, instead of the actual Occupiers; and the Inhabitants so assembled in Vestry may and they are hereby authorized from Time to Time to rescind, renew, vary, and amend every such Resolution and Direction as they shall see Occasion, so as no such Resolution or Direction shall extend to assess or charge the Owner of any House, Apartment, or Dwelling which shall with the Outhouses and Curtilages thereof be let at a greater Rent than Twenty Pounds or less than Six Pounds as aforesaid; and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of every such Parish are hereby empowered and required to carry into effect all such Resolutions and Directions of the Inhabitants in Vestry assembled, and in pursuance and execution thereof, in all Rates to be by them made for the Relief of the Poor, to assess by a fair and equal Pound Rate the Owner or Owners, being the immediate Lessor or Lessors of the actual Occupier or Occupiers, of every House, Apartment, or Dwelling to which such Resolution and Direction shall extend, for or in respect of the same, according to the actual Rent at which every such House, Apartment, or Dwelling shall be let, after making a reasonable Deduction from such Rent, not exceeding in any Case One-half of the same; and upon Nonpayment of the Sum or Sums

so to be assessed, the same may and shall be levied upon, and the Payment thereof be enforced against, such Owner and Owners, Lessor and Lessors, so to be assessed, and his and their Goods and Chattels, in like Manner as Rates for the Relief of the Poor may by Law be levied and recovered, and the Payment thereof enforced, upon and against any actual Occupier on whom the same are charged.

Goods of Occupiers may be distrained for Rates to the Amount of the Rent actually due.

XX. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That the Goods and Chattels of every Occupier of any such House, Apartment, or Dwelling, which shall be found in and about the same, shall be liable to be distrained and sold for raising so much of any such Rate or Assessment being in Arrear, as shall have become due during the Occupancy of the Person or Persons whose Goods and Chattels shall be so distrained (to be ascertained in a summary Way by the Justices granting the Warrant of Distress), so that in no case any greater Sum be raised by Distress of the Goods and Chattels of any such Occupier, than shall, at the Time of making such Distress, be actually due from such Occupier for Rent of the Premises on which such Distress shall be made: Provided also, that every Occupier who shall pay any such Rate or Rates, or upon whose Goods or Chattels the same or any Part thereof shall be levied, shall and may deduct the Amount of the Sum which shall be so paid or levied, out of the Rent by him or them payable; and such Payment shall be a sufficient Discharge to every such Occupier for so much of the Rent payable by him as he shall have paid, or as shall have been levied on his Goods and Chattels, of such Rate, and for the Costs of levying the same.

Occupiers paying Rates empowered to deduct the Amount out of their Rent.

Receivers in certain Cases may be rated as Owners.

XXI. Provided, and be it further enacted, That every Person receiving or claiming the Rent of any such House, Apartment, or Dwelling, for his or her own Use, or receiving the same for the Use of any Corporation Aggregate, or of any Landlord or Lessor who shall be a Minor, under Coverture, or insane, or for the Use of any Person who shall not be usually resident within Twenty Miles from the Parish in which any such House, Apartment, or Dwelling shall be situated, shall for this Purpose be deemed and taken to be and shall be rateable as the Owner thereof.

Persons rated as Owners may appeal;

and may vote in Vestries.

XXII. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That every Person to be rated as the Owner of any such House, Apartment, or Dwelling, who shall think himself or herself aggrieved by any such Rate, shall have such and the like Remedy by Appeal against the same, as any other Person thereby rated; and every Person so rated shall be entitled, as an Inhabitant of the Parish in and for which he shall be assessed, to be present and to vote in every Vestry or Meeting of the Inhabitants thereof, for the Execution of the Laws for the Relief of the Poor, or for the Consideration of any Matter or Question in relation thereto, in like Manner as the Inhabitants of the said Parish.

No Owner, not being an Occupier, to be rated, in Places where the Right of

XXIII. Provided, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to give any Power or Authority to assess the Owner (not being the Occupier) of any House, Apartment, or Dwelling, in any City, Borough, or Town Corporate, in which the Right of Voting for the Election of

Members to serve in Parliament shall depend upon the Assessment of the Voter to the Poor's Rate, or to vary or affect the Manner of assessing and charging any of the Inhabitants or Occupiers of Houses, Lands, or Tenements, within any such City, Borough, or Town Corporate.

voting for Members to serve in Parliament depends on the rating.

XXIV. And whereas Difficulties having frequently arisen, and considerable Expences have sometimes been incurred, by reason of the Refusal of Persons who have been permitted to occupy, or who have intruded themselves into Parish or Town Houses, or other Tenements or Dwellings built or provided for the Habitation of the Poor, or otherwise belonging to such Parishes, to deliver up the Possession of such Houses, Tenements, or Dwellings, when thereto required; and it is expedient to provide a Remedy for the same; be it further enacted, That if any Person who shall have been permitted to occupy any Parish or Town House, or any other Tenement or Dwelling belonging to or provided by or at the Charge of any Parish, for the Habitation of the Poor thereof, or who shall have unlawfully intruded himself or herself into any such House, Tenement, or Dwelling, or into any House, Tenement, or Hereditament belonging to such Parish, shall refuse or neglect to quit the same, and deliver up the Possession thereof to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any such Parish, within One Month after Notice and Demand in Writing for that Purpose, signed by such Churchwardens and Overseers, or the major Part of them, shall have been delivered to the Person in Possession, or in his or her Absence affixed on some notorious Part of the Premises, it shall be lawful for any Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, upon Complaint to them made by One or more of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish in which any such House, Tenement, or Dwelling shall be situated, to issue their Summons to the Person against whom such Complaint shall be made, to appear before such Justices at a Time and Place to be appointed by them, and to cause such Summons to be delivered to the Party against whom the Complaint shall be made, or in his or her Absence to be affixed on the Premises, Seven Days at the least before the Time appointed for hearing such Complaint; and such Justices are hereby empowered and required, upon the Appearance of the Defendant, or upon Proof on Oath that such Summons hath been delivered or affixed as is hereby directed, to proceed to hear and determine the Matter of such Complaint, and if they shall find and adjudge the same to be true, then by Warrant under their Hands and Seals to cause Possession of the Premises in question to be delivered to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish, or to some of them.

Justices empowered, in certain Cases, to deliver the Possession of Parish Houses to Overseers.

Mode of Proceeding.

XXV. And be it further enacted, That if any Person to whom any Land appropriated, purchased, or taken under the Authority of this Act, for the Employment of the Poor of any Parish, or to whom any other Lands belonging to such Parish, or to the Churchwardens and Overseers thereof, or to either of them, shall have been let for his or her own Occupation, shall refuse to quit and to deliver up the Possession thereof to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, at the Expiration of the Term for which the same shall have

Justices empowered to deliver Possession of Land appropriated for the Poor.

have been demised or let to him or her; or if any Person or Persons shall unlawfully enter upon, or take or hold Possession of any such Land, or any other Land or Hereditaments belonging to such Parish, or to the Churchwardens or Overseers, or to either of them, it shall be lawful for such Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or any of them, after such Notice and Demand of Possession as is by this Act directed in the Case of Parish Houses, to exhibit a Complaint against the Person or Persons in Possession of such Land, before Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, who are hereby authorized and required to proceed thereon, and to hear and determine the Matter thereof, and if they shall find and adjudge the same to be true, to cause Possession of such Land to be delivered to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or some of them, in such and the like Course and Manner as are by this Act directed with regard to Parish Houses.

Justices in Petty Sessions empowered to order Relief by Parents, &c. as Justices in Quarter Sessions by 43 Eliz. c. 2.

XXVI. And whereas by the said Act passed in the Forty-third Year of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, for the Relief of the Poor, it was enacted, that the Father and Grandfather, and the Mother and Grandmother, and the Children of every poor, old, blind, lame, and impotent Person, or other poor Person not able to work, being of a sufficient Ability, shall at their own Charges relieve and maintain every such poor Person, in that manner and according to that Rate as by the Justices of the Peace of that County where such sufficient Persons dwell, or the greater Number of them, at their General Quarter Session, shall be assessed: And whereas it is expedient to extend the Power which is by the said Act given to Justices in their General Quarter Sessions, to Justices in Petty Sessions: Be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Two or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the County or other Jurisdiction in which any such sufficient Person shall dwell, and they are hereby empowered, in any Petty Session, to make such Assessment and Order for the Relief of every poor, old, blind, lame, impotent, or other poor Person not able to work, upon and by the Father, Grandfather, Mother, Grandmother, or Child (being of sufficient Ability) of every such poor Person, as may by virtue of the said Act be made by the Justices in their General Quarter Sessions; and that every such Assessment and Order of Two or more Justices in any Petty Sessions shall have the like Force and Effect as if the same were made by the Justices in their General Quarter Session; and the Disobedience thereof shall be punishable in like Manner.

22 G. 3. c. 83. Cases in which Relief may be ordered by incorporated Parishes without previous Application to the Visitor.

XXVII. And whereas by the said Act passed in the Twenty-second Year of His present Majesty's Reign, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor, it is enacted, with regard to Parishes which have adopted the Provisions thereof, and for which a Visitor shall have been appointed, that no Guardian of the Poor shall be summoned to appear before any Justice of the Peace, upon Complaint or Application to such Justice for the Relief of any poor Person, unless Application shall have been first made by the Person so complaining to the Guardian, and upon his Refusal of Redress, to the Visitor: And whereas in many Cases, by reason of the Absence of the Visitor, or the Distance of his Residence, it may not be in the Power of the

Complainant to make the Application by the said Act required; for Remedy thereof be it further enacted, That if it shall be made to appear to any Justice to whom any such Complaint or Application for Relief shall be made, that the Visitor of the Parish or United Parishes from which Relief shall be sought is absent from Home, or is resident more than Six Miles from the Place of Abode of the Complainant, and that Application for Relief hath been made to the Guardian, and hath been refused, it shall be lawful for such Justice to summon the Guardian to appear before him to answer such Complaint, and to proceed thereon, and make such Order therein, as the Case shall require, in like Manner as in Cases where Application hath been made to the Visitor, in the Manner by the said Act directed.

Examination of Prisoners to their Settlements, made Evidence.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace to take in Writing the Examination on Oath of any Person having a Wife or Child, who shall be a Prisoner in any Gaol or House of Correction, or in the Custody of the Keeper of any such Gaol or House of Correction, or who shall be in the Custody of any Constable or other Peace Officer, by virtue of any Warrant of Commitment, touching the Place of his or her last legal Settlement; and such Examination shall be signed by such Justice taking the same, and shall be received and admitted in Evidence as to such Settlement before any Justices, for the Purpose of any Order of Removal, so long only as the Person so examined shall continue a Prisoner.

Overseers empowered, in certain Cases, to give Relief by way of Loan only.

XXIX. And whereas it is expedient to discourage that Reliance upon the Poor's Rates which frequently induces Artisans, Labourers, and others, to squander away Earnings which would with suitable Care have afforded sufficient Means for the Support of their Families; be it further enacted, That whenever it shall appear to the Justices, or to the General or Select Vestry, or to such Guardians, Governors, or Directors as aforesaid, or to the Overseers of the Poor, to whom Application shall be made for Relief for any poor Person, that he might, but for his Extravagance, Neglect, or wilful Misconduct, have been able to maintain himself, or to support his Family (as the Case may be), it shall be lawful for the Overseers of the Poor (by the Direction of the Justices, or of the General or Select Vestry, or of such Guardians, Governors or Directors, where Application shall have been made to them respectively,) to advance Money weekly or otherwise, as may be requisite, to the Person so applying, by way of Loan only, and to take his Receipt for, and Engagement to repay every Sum to be so advanced (for which no Stamp Duty shall be required); and it shall be lawful for any Two Justices, upon the Application (within One Year after any such Loan or Loans) of One or more of the Overseers of the Poor for the Time being of the Parish, to summon the Person to whom any Money shall have been so advanced; and if upon Examination by such Justices into his Circumstances, it shall appear to them that such Person is able, by Weekly Instalments or otherwise, to repay the Whole or any Part of the Money so advanced to him, and for which he shall have given any such Receipt and Engagement, it shall be lawful for such Justices to make an Order under their Hands and Seals for the Repayment of the Whole or of any Part of

such Money, at such Time and Times and in such Proportions and Manner as they shall see fit; and upon every Default of Payment, by their Warrant to commit such Person to the Common Gaol or House of Correction, for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months, unless the Sum and Sums which shall be due and payable by virtue of such Order shall be sooner paid.

Pensions for Service in the Navy, Army, &c. may be assigned in certain Cases for the Indemnity of Parishes.

XXX. And be it further enacted, That when any Person entitled to or in Receipt of any Pension, Superannuation, or other Allowance, in respect of his Service in the Navy, Royal Marines, Army, or Ordnance, shall apply to any Parish for Relief, for himself, or for his Wife or Family, it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor to require the Pensioner or other Person applying for Relief, before the same shall be granted, to assign to them the next quarterly or other Payment or Allowance which shall become payable to him, to the Intent that they may receive the same, and retain for the Use of the Parish so much thereof as shall have been by them advanced for the Relief of such Pensioner, or other Person, or of his Wife or Family residing with him in such Parish; and it shall also be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, at the Request of any Person who shall be entitled to or in the Receipt of any such Pension, Superannuation, or other Allowance, to advance for his Support, or the Support of his Family, any weekly Sum not exceeding the Rate of his Pension or Allowance, to be repaid by and out of the next Quarterly or other Payment of such Pension or Allowance, and to take an Assignment thereof by way of Security for the Money so to be advanced, any thing in any Act or Acts to the contrary notwithstanding; and every Assignment to be made of any such Pension, Superannuation, or Allowance, for the Purposes of this Act, shall be exempt from Stamp Duty, and shall be in the Form or to the Effect following; that is to say,

Form of Assignment.

'I [*naming the Pensioner, or other Applicant, and stating such Particulars as shall be requisite*] do hereby assign to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of the next Payment of the Pension, at the Rate of *per Diem*, [*or, as the Case may be*] granted to me as and payable from in order to secure to the said Parish of the Repayment of the Sum of advanced to me, [*or*, of the Weekly Sum of ordered or agreed to be advanced to me, *as the Case may be*], by such Churchwardens and Overseers.

'Signed by the above-named
'before me, One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for
'this Day of

And every such Assignment, attested by One of His Majesty Justices of the Peace, of any Quarterly or other Payment payable by the Commissioners for the Affairs of the Royal Hospitals at *Chelsea* or *Greenwich*, or by the Paymaster of the Royal Marines, or the Treasurer of the Board of Ordnance respectively, and made as aforesaid to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, shall

be transmitted by such Churchwarden or Overseer, at least One Month before such Payment shall become due, under Cover, addressed to the Paymaster General of His Majesty's Forces, with the Words "*Chelsea* Pensioner" written thereon, or to the Paymaster of Pensions at *Greenwich* Hospital, with the Words "*Greenwich* Pensioner" written thereon, or to the Paymaster of the Royal Marines, with the Words "Royal Marines Pensioner" written thereon, or to the Secretary to the Board of Ordnance, with the Words "Ordnance "Pensioner" written thereon; who shall thereupon respectively cause the said Payment to be made to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of the Parish for whose Security the Assignment shall have been made, in the same Manner as the said Payment would have been made to the Person assigning the same if no such Assignment had been made; and such Churchwardens and Overseers, or any one or more of them, are and is hereby authorized to receive the same, and to retain thereout for the Use of the Parish so much as shall have been advanced and paid on Security thereof, and forthwith to pay the Residue (if any there shall be) to the Pensioner or Person by whom such Assignment shall have been made; and if any Question shall arise between the Pensioner or Person making any such Assignment and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, touching the Amount which shall be due and payable to them by virtue of any such Assignment, the same shall be determined in a summary Way by one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and his Order and Determination therein shall be final and conclusive: Provided that no such Assignment shall entitle the Churchwardens and Overseers to whom the same shall be made, to receive the Pension or Allowance purporting to be thereby assigned, if the Party assigning the same shall die before the Time when such Pension or other Allowance would have become payable to him if no such Assignment thereof had been made.

The Pension assigned to be paid to Churchwardens, &c.

Assignments of Pensions to become void by the Death of the Pensioner before the Day of Payment.

XXXI. And be it further enacted, That when any Pensioner, or other Person entitled to or in Receipt of any such Pension or other Allowance as aforesaid, shall leave his Wife or Family chargeable, or suffer them to become chargeable to any Parish, it shall be lawful for Two or more Justices, upon Complaint thereof to them made by any one or more of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, and verified on Oath, by Order under their Hands and Seals to direct that the next Payment which shall become due of such Pension or other Allowance shall be made to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish to which such Wife or Family shall have become chargeable; and any one or more of such Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor shall transmit such Order to the aforesaid Commissioners for the Affairs of the Royal Hospitals at *Chelsea* or *Greenwich*, or the Secretary of the Board of Ordnance respectively, in like Manner as any Assignment is herein-before directed to be transmitted to the Paymaster General of His Majesty's Forces, and the Paymaster of Pensions at *Greenwich*, the Paymaster of the Royal Marines, and the Secretary of the Board of Ordnance, as the Case may be; which said Paymaster General, or Paymaster of Pensions at *Greenwich*, or the Treasurer of the Board of Ordnance, shall thereupon, and upon sufficient Proof being given that the Person whose Pension

Justices may order Payment to Overseers of the Pensions, &c. of Persons leaving their Families chargeable.

Pension or other Allowance shall be directed to be paid shall have been living when the same shall become payable, and would have been entitled to receive the same if no such Order had been made, cause the said Payment to be made to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish for whose Security such Order shall have been made; and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor receiving any such Pension or other Allowance by virtue of any such Order, shall retain and apply the same, or so much thereof as shall have been actually expended for the Purposes aforesaid, for the Use and Indemnity of the Parish, and shall pay the Overplus (if any there shall be) to the Pensioner or Person entitled thereto; and upon the Receipt of any such Order as aforesaid, by which the Pension, or other Allowance to be mentioned therein, shall be directed to be paid to such Churchwardens and Overseers as aforesaid, the Payment thereof shall be suspended, until sufficient Proof shall have been given to entitle the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish, in such Order named, to receive the Money thereby directed to be paid to them.

Justices empowered to order Payment of Seamen's Wages for the Indemnity of Parishes.

XXXII. And whereas in many Instances the Wives and Families of Seamen employed in the Merchants Service become chargeable to Parishes, while their Husbands and Fathers are absent on such Service, and it is expedient to provide for the Indemnity of such Parishes by and out of the Wages of such Seamen; be it therefore further enacted, That where the Wife or Family of any Seaman employed in any Voyage or Trip (not being His Majesty's Service) shall, during his Absence on such Employment, become chargeable to any Parish, it shall be lawful for Two Justices, upon Complaint thereof to them made by any One or more of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, and verified on Oath, by Order under their Hands and Seals, to direct the acting Owner or Owners, Ship's Husband, or Agent of the Ship or Vessel in which such Seaman shall be employed, to pay, out of the Wages which shall become due to such Seaman, unto the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish to which his Wife or Family shall have become chargeable, so much as shall have been by such Parish necessarily expended for their Maintenance or Relief, (the Amount, in case of any Dispute, to be ascertained by Two Justices, whose Determination thereon shall be final); and upon the Production of any such Order, the Owner, Ship's Husband or Agent, by whom the Wages of the Seaman therein to be named shall be payable, shall pay to such One or more of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish for whose Indemnity such Order shall have been made, as shall demand the same, the Sum and Sums to be therein specified and directed to be paid, or so much thereof as the Wages then due shall amount unto; and the Payment to and Receipt of any such Churchwarden or Overseer, shall be a good Discharge for so much of such Wages as shall be paid to them or him by virtue of any such Order; and if any such Owner, Ship's Husband or Agent, shall refuse or neglect to pay to the Churchwarden or Overseer producing any such Order, the Money thereby directed to be paid, or so much thereof as shall be actually due for the Wages of the Seaman to be therein named, the same may be levied and recovered, and the Payment thereof enforced, against the Owner or Owners, Ship's Husband

band or Agent, by whom the same shall be payable, in such and the like Manner as Poor's Rates in Arrear may be levied and recovered, and the Payment thereof enforced, against the Parties and Persons chargeable and charged therewith: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall authorize or compel the Payment of any Sum or Sums of Money by such acting Owner or Owners, Ship's Husband or Agent, until the Voyage in which the Vessel shall be so engaged shall be completed, nor beyond the Sum that shall be then actually due to such Seamen, by such acting Owner or Owners, Ship's Husband or Agent, as Wages or otherwise.

Power to remove chargeable Poor born in Scotland, Ireland, &c. although they have not committed any Act of Vagrancy.

XXXIII. And whereas poor Persons, born in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and in the Isles of *Man*, *Jersey*, and *Guernsey*, frequently become chargeable to Parishes in *England*, and no Provision is made for the Removal of any such poor Person, unless he or she shall have committed some Act of Vagrancy, and shall be adjudged to be a Rogue and Vagabond; and no Person so adjudged can be lawfully removed without having been first publicly whipped or imprisoned in the House of Correction: And whereas it is expedient to authorize the Removal of such poor Persons, although they may not have committed any Act of Vagrancy, and to authorize Justices of the Peace to cause such of them as may be adjudged to be Rogues and Vagabonds, to be conveyed by a Pass, without having been first whipped or imprisoned; be it therefore further enacted, That it shall be lawful for Two Justices of the Peace, and they are hereby required, upon the Complaint of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, that any Person born in *Scotland* or in *Ireland*, or in either of the Isles of *Man*, *Jersey*, and *Guernsey*, hath become chargeable to such Parish, by himself or herself, or his or her Family, to cause such Person to be brought before them, and to examine such Person, and any other Witness or Witnesses, on Oath, touching the Place of the Birth or last legal Settlement of every such Person, and to inquire whether he or she, or any of his or her Children, hath or have gained any Settlement in that Part of the United Kingdom called *England*; and if it shall be found by such Justices, that the Person so brought before them was born in *Scotland*, or *Ireland*, or in either of the Isles of *Man*, *Jersey*, and *Guernsey*, and hath not gained any Settlement in *England*, and that he or she hath actually become chargeable to the complaining Parish, by himself or herself, or his or her Family, then such Justices shall and they are hereby empowered, by a Pass under their Hands and Seals, in the Form or to the Effect prescribed by the Act passed in the Seventeenth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Second, to amend the Laws relating to Rogues and Vagabonds (*mutatis mutandis*), to cause such poor Person, his Wife, and such of his or her Children so chargeable as shall not have gained a Settlement in *England*, to be removed to the Place of his or her Birth or last legal Settlement, in the Manner by the said Act directed for the Removal of Rogues and Vagabonds to *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and the Isles of *Man*, *Jersey*, and *Guernsey*; and all Constables and other Officers, and all Masters of Vessels, are hereby required to convey every Person so to be passed in the Manner by the said Act directed for the Conveyance of Rogues and Vagabonds. 17 G. 2. c. 5.

Scotch and Irish Vagrants may be removed without being whipped or imprisoned.

XXXIV. And it is hereby further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace, who shall adjudge any Person born in *Scotland* or in *Ireland*, or in any of the Isles of *Man*, *Jersey*, and *Guernsey*, (and not having gained a Settlement in *England*) to be a Rogue and Vagabond, in his Discretion and according to the Circumstances of the Case, either to order him to be whipped, or him or her to be imprisoned in the House of Correction, as by the Laws in being are directed, before he or she shall be removed, or to cause such Rogue and Vagabond to be removed without having been so whipped or imprisoned.

Justices to act within their respective Jurisdictions.

Provisions relating to Parishes applied to Townships, &c.

Majority to act.

XXXV. And be it further enacted, That all Powers and Authorities by this Act given to and vested in Justices of the Peace, shall be exercised and executed by such Justices within the Limits of their respective Commissions and Jurisdictions, and not elsewhere; and that all Provisions, Clauses, Authorities, and Directions in this Act contained, in relation to Parishes, shall extend and be construed to extend to all Townships, Vills, and Places having separate Overseers of the Poor, and maintaining their Poor separately; and that all Acts and Duties required or authorized by this Act to be done and executed by Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, may in every Parish be performed, exercised, and executed by the major Part of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor thereof; and that in Townships, Vills, and Places which have no Churchwarden, the same may be performed, exercised, and executed by the Overseers of the Poor thereof, or the major Part of them; and that all the Powers, Provisions, and Clauses in this Act contained, which relate to Vestries, or to the Inhabitants of any Parish in Vestry assembled, shall be construed to extend to all Meetings of the Inhabitants of any Township, Vill, or Place, having separate Overseers of the Poor, and maintaining its Poor separately, to be held after due and legal Notice for carrying into Execution the Laws for the Relief of the Poor, as fully as if in every such Provision and Clause they were severally and respectively named and repeated.

Powers given to Vestries applied to Meetings of Townships, &c.

Saving Powers of 22 G.3. c.83. where the Provisions are adopted.

XXXVI. Provided, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to take away, abridge, alter, prejudice, or affect, further than is hereby expressly enacted, any of the Powers, Directions, Provisions, or Regulations contained in the said Act passed in the Twenty-second Year of His present Majesty's Reign, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor, in or with respect to such Parishes, Townships, and Places as have adopted, or as shall adopt and become subject to the Provisions of that Act; nor to take away, abridge, alter, prejudice, or affect any of the Powers or Provisions of any special or local Act or Acts, for the Maintenance, Relief, or Regulation of the Poor, in any City, Town, Hundred, District, Parish, or Place, so nevertheless that in every City, Town, Hundred, District, Parish, or Place, such of the Clauses, Directions, and Powers in this Act contained, as are not repugnant to, nor incompatible with, the Provisions of the said Act of the Twenty-second Year of His Majesty's Reign, or of such respective special or local Acts, shall have the like Force and Effect, and may be adopted and applied in like Manner, as in other Parishes and

Saving Powers given by Special Acts.

Places: Provided also, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to alter, affect, or disturb any Select Vestry which in any Parish has been established and acted upon by virtue of any ancient Usage or Custom. Select Vestries.

XXXVII. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall extend only to that Part of the United Kingdom called *England*. Act extends to England only.

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