ANNO PRIMO & SECUNDO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

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C A P. LXXXVIII.

An Act for the Amendment of the Law of Rescue. [10th *July* 1821.]

WHEREAS divers daring Attempts have of late been made to effect the Rescue or prevent the Detention of Persons charged with or committed for or on Suspicion of Felony: And whereas it might tend more effectually to prevent the Commission of such Offences if further Provisions were made for the Punishment of Persons who may hereafter be convicted thereof, as are herein-after enacted: 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, if any Person shall rescue, or aid and assist in rescuing, from the lawful Custody of any Constable, Officer, Headborough, or other Person whomsoever, any Person charged with, or suspected of, or committed for any Felony, or on Suspicion thereof, then if the Person or Persons so offending shall be convicted of Felony, and be entitled to the Benefit of Clergy, and be liable to be imprisoned for any Term not exceeding One Year, it shall be lawful for the Court by or before whom any such Person or Persons shall be convicted, to order and direct, in case it shall think fit, that such Person or Persons, instead of being so fined and imprisoned as aforesaid, shall be transported beyond the Seas for Seven Years, or be imprisoned only, or be imprisoned and kept to hard Labour in the

Punishment of Persons rescuing Persons charged with Felony.

Common Gaol, House of Correction, or Penitentiary House, for any Term not less than One and not exceeding Three Years.

Punishment of Persons assaulting Constables to prevent the Apprehension or Detainer of Persons charged with Felony.

II. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the passing of this Act, if any Person shall assault, beat, or wound any Constable, Officer, Headborough, or other Person whomsoever, with Intent in so doing, or by Means thereof, to obstruct, resist, or prevent the lawful Apprehension or Detainer of any Person charged with or suspected of Felony; or if any Person charged with or suspected of Felony, shall assault, beat, or wound any Constable, Officer, Headborough, or other Person whomsoever, with Intent in so doing, or by Means thereof, to obstruct, resist, or prevent his or her Apprehension or Detainer; then and in every or any such Case, if the Person or Persons so offending shall be convicted of a Misdemeanor only, it shall be lawful for the Court by or before whom any such Person or Persons shall be so convicted as aforesaid to order and direct, in case it shall think fit, that such Person or Persons shall, in addition to any other Pains, Penalties, or Punishment to which he, she, or they are now subject or liable, be kept to hard Labour for any Term not exceeding Two Years, and not less than Six Months.

Public Act.

III. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Public Act, and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and others, without being specially pleaded.

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