ANNO QUADRAGESIMO QUARTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

Cap. 57:

An Act for more equally and effectually aſſeſſing and collecting the Poor Rates within the Pariſh of *Saint Mary Stratford Bow*, in the County of *Middleſex*.

[29th *June* 1804.]

WHEREAS the Poor within the Pariſh of *Saint Mary Stratford Bow*, in the County of *Middleſex*, are very numerous, and are maintained and ſupported at a great Expence, and by Means of very heavy Rates; and the Laws and Statutes now in force within this Realm, for the aſſeſſing and collecting of Monies for the Relief of Parochial Poor, are found inconvenient and ineffectual in the ſaid Pariſh, and the Payment thereof is much evaded, by reaſon that divers Houſes within the ſaid Pariſh are let out ready-furniſhed or in ſeparate Apartments, and other Houſes therein, are let either furniſhed or unfurniſhed to Lodgers; and it is deemed that the granting further Powers in the Premiſes will tend to the Equalization and Reduction of the preſent Poor Rates within the ſaid Pariſh, to the great Alleviation of many induſtrious Families who now pay the ſame, and of the reſt of the Inhabitants of the ſaid Pariſh in general: May it therefore 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, from and after the paſſing of this Act, all and every Perſon and Perſons, whether Owner, Leſſee, Landlord, Renter, or Tenant, who ſhall let his or her Houſe, Tenement, or other Premiſes,

Declaring that Perſons letting Houſes ready furniſhed, or in ſe-

parate Apartments, or in Lodgings furniſhed or unfurniſhed, ſhall be deemed the Occupiers for the Purpoſes of this Act; but that the Rates ſhall be paid by the Tenants.

Premiſes, within the ſaid Pariſh, ready-furniſhed, or in Parcels or ſeparate Apartments, or in Lodgings furniſhed or unfurniſhed, ſhall be deemed the Occupier thereof, and ſhall be rated to, and ſhall pay the Rates and Aſſeſſments for the Relief of the Poor of the ſaid Pariſh; and that all and every ſuch Rates and Aſſeſſments ſhall be paid by the Perſon or Perſons renting or occupying any ſuch ready-furniſhed Houſe, or any ſuch Parcel or ſeparate Apartments, or ready-furniſhed Lodgings or unfurniſhed Lodgings, and the Perſon or Perſons, Occupier or Occupiers, of whom the ſame ſhall be demanded, is and are hereby authorized and required to pay ſuch Sum and Sums of Money as ſhall be rated or aſſeſſed upon ſuch Owner, Leſſee, Landlord, Renter, or Tenant.

For better Recovery of Rates on Houſes let at ſmall Rents.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That where the Yearly Rent or Value of any Houſe, Tenement, or Hereditament within the ſaid Pariſh ſhall not exceed Ten Pounds, or where the Houſes, Tenements, or Hereditaments, ſhall be let to Weekly or Monthly Tenants, or in ſeparate Apartments furniſhed or unfurniſhed, and the Rents thereof ſhall become payable and be collected at any ſhorter Periods than Quarterly, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen of the ſaid Pariſh (if they ſhall think proper) to compound with the Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners, of all and every or any ſuch Houſe or Houſes, Tenement or Tenements, and Hereditaments in the ſaid Pariſh, for the Payment of the Poor Rates, at ſuch a reduced Yearly Rental as the ſaid Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen of the ſaid Pariſh, or the major Part of them, ſhall think reaſonable, ſo that ſuch Houſes, Tenements, or Hereditaments be not rated at leſs than Two-thirds nor more than Four-fifths of the Rack Rent at which the ſame ſhall then be let, or of the Annual Value of the ſaid Premiſes reſpectively; and the Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners, of ſuch Houſes, Tenements, or Hereditaments as ſhall not exceed the Yearly Rent of Ten Pounds, or as ſhall be let to Weekly or Monthly Tenants, or in ſeparate Apartments furniſhed or unfurniſhed, and from whence the Rents ſhall become due and be collected at any ſhorter Period than Quarterly, is and are hereby required to enter into ſuch Compoſition with the ſaid Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen of the ſaid Pariſh; and in caſe ſuch Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners, ſhall object to enter into ſuch Compoſition, he or they ſhall from thenceforth be deemed and taken to be the Occupier or Occupiers of ſuch Premiſes, and ſhall thereupon be rated to and from Time to Time ſhall pay or cauſe to be paid the Rates or Aſſeſſments charged upon their reſpective Premiſes, for the Relief of the Poor of the ſaid Pariſh, according to a fair and equal Aſſeſſment by the ſaid Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen of the ſaid Pariſh, unto their Collector or Collectors for the Time being, who are hereby authorized and empowered to collect the ſame; and upon Nonpayment thereof to levy the ſame by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners of the reſpective Premiſes aforeſaid whereſoever they ſhall be found, or the Perſon or Perſons inhabiting the ſame reſpectively: Provided always, that no ſuch Landlord or Owner ſhall be charged with or liable to pay for any increaſed Rent reſerved or made payable to him for or on account of ſuch Landlord or Owner having agreed to pay the Rates heretofore chargeable upon the Occupier; and that in ſuch Caſe the ſaid Rate or Rates, Aſſeſſment or Aſſeſſments, or ſo much thereof as ſhall remain unpaid, ſhall be and continue a Charge upon the Premiſes in reſpect whereof they ſhall be ſo rated, and ſhall and may be recovered of and from the Owner,

Owner, Leſſee, Landlord, Renter, or Tenant reſpectively, in Manner hereinafter mentioned or referred to: Provided alſo, that the Goods and Chattels of any Perſon or Perſons renting or occupying any ſuch Houſe, Tenement, or Hereditament, or any Part or Parts thereof, the Poor Rates of which the Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners, is or are hereby made ſubject or liable to, and which ſhall not have been compounded for as aforeſaid, ſhall be liable at all Times to be diſtrained and ſold for Payment of ſo much of the ſaid Rates or Aſſeſſments, and of all Arrears thereof which accrued and became due upon the ſaid Premiſes during the Time of their Occupancy only: Provided alſo, that all ſuch Sums of Money as ſhall be ſo paid by ſuch Occupier or Occupiers ſhall be deemed and taken as a Payment in Part of the Rent due and payable from him, her, or them, to the reſpective Landlord or Owner of the ſame Premiſes.

For aſcertaining the annual Value of Houſes, &c. liable to be rated.

III. And, for the more equally aſſeſſing the Poor Rates within the ſaid Pariſh, be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, Veſtrymen, and Pariſhioners, of the ſaid Pariſh, or the major Part of them in Veſtry aſſembled, to call in the Aid and Aſſiſtance of ſome Surveyor or Surveyors, or other competent Perſon, to view, eſtimate, and aſcertain the Annual Value of all or any Houſes, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, within the ſaid Pariſh, chargeable or liable to be aſſeſſed for the Relief of the Poor, and ſo from Time to Time as Occaſion ſhall require.

For appointing Officers.

IV. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen of the ſaid Pariſh in Veſtry aſſembled, or the major Part of them, from Time to Time to appoint a Treaſurer or Treaſurers, and a Clerk or Clerks, and Collector or Collectors of the Poor Rates of the ſaid Pariſh, and ſuch other Officers as they may judge neceſſary, and ſhall take ſuch Security as they the ſaid Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen of the ſaid Pariſh, ſhall think proper, from ſuch Treaſurers, Clerk, or Collector; and ſhall and may from Time to Time remove ſuch Treaſurers, Clerks, Collectors, and other Officers, and appoint in like Manner, by Ballot, others in the Room and Stead of ſuch of them as ſhall be ſo removed, or as ſhall die, or diſcontinue, or reſign his or their Office or Offices; and that the ſaid Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen, of the ſaid Pariſh, ſhall and may, out of the Monies ariſing and authorized to be collected by virtue of this Act, allow to all ſuch Clerks, Collectors, or other Officers, ſuch Salaries or other Allowances as they the ſaid Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen, of the ſaid Pariſh, ſhall judge neceſſary and proper.

Collectors required to collect Rates within a given Time.

V. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons who ſhall be choſen Collector or Collectors by virtue of this Act ſhall refuſe or neglect to collect the Rates granted for the Relief of the Poor of the ſaid Pariſh, and for the Purpoſes of this Act, for the Space of Twenty-one Days after the ſame ſhall be granted, and Complaint ſhall be made by the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of the ſaid Pariſh for the Time being, or by any One of them, and Oath made by ſome credible Witneſs before any One of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County of *Middleſex*, of ſuch Refuſal or Neglect, ſuch Collector or Collectors ſhall, unleſs he or they ſhall ſhew full and juſt Cauſe to the Satisfaction of ſuch Juſtice why ſuch Rates are not collected, forfeit and pay to the Treaſurer or

or Treaſurers for the Time being, to be appointed by virtue of this Act, a Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, nor leſs than Forty Shillings for every ſuch Refuſal or Neglect.

Requiring Collectors to account.

VI. And be it further enacted, That the Collector or Collectors, to be appointed as aforeſaid, ſhall from Time to Time pay over all and every the Sums of Money to be collected or received by them reſpectively by virtue of this Act, when and ſo often as the ſame ſhall amount to Ten Pounds, or upwards, to the Treaſurer or Treaſurers for the Time being, to be appointed as aforeſaid; and that ſuch Collector or Collectors ſhall from Time to Time when required, give in a particular, true, and perfect Account in Writing, under his or their Hand or reſpective Hands, to the ſaid Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen (on Oath, if required, which Oath any Juſtice of the Peace for the ſaid County of *Middleſex* is hereby empowered to adminiſter) of all Monies which he or they ſhall have reſpectively received, collected, or levied by virtue of this Act, or by reaſon or means of the ſaid Office; and ſhall from Time to Time, when thereunto required by the ſaid Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen of the ſaid Pariſh, pay all ſuch Monies as ſhall be in his, their, or any of their Hands, by virtue of this Act, to the ſaid Treaſurer or Treaſurers, to be appointed as aforeſaid; and if any ſuch Collector or Collectors as aforeſaid, ſhall neglect or refuſe to make ſuch Accounts and Payments as are required to be made by him or them reſpectively by this Act, then any Two Juſtices of the Peace acting for the County of *Middleſex*, ſhall and may, upon Complaint thereof, make Enquiry of and concerning ſuch Neglect or Refuſal, as well by the Confeſſion of the Parties themſelves, as by the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes; and if any ſuch Collector or Collectors ſhall be convicted of ſuch Neglect or Refuſal before ſuch Juſtices, then the ſaid Juſtices ſhall, upon Conviction, commit the Perſon or Perſons ſo offending to the Common Gaol of the ſaid County, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize until he or they ſhall have made a true and perfect Account and Payment as aforeſaid.

Penalty on Neglect or Refuſal.

Collectors to produce Liſts of Defaulters.

VII. And be it further enacted, That the Collector or Collectors for the Time being to be appointed by virtue of this Act, ſhall produce Monthly to the Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen of the ſaid Pariſh, a true Liſt in Writing of the Names and Places of Abode of ſuch Perſons as ſhall have been rated for the Relief of the Poor of the ſaid Pariſh, and ſhall not have paid the ſaid Rate, together with an Account of the Sum or Sums of Money which ſhall remain unpaid by each Perſon reſpectively; and which Liſt and Account laſt mentioned, ſuch Collector or Collectors ſhall, if required, verify on Oath before any Juſtice of the Peace for the ſaid County of *Middleſex*, who is hereby empowered to adminiſter the ſame.

For paying the Expences of the Act.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That all Coſts, Charges, and Expences, of paſſing this Act, and all other Charges incident to the obtaining thereof, or incurred in relation thereto, ſhall be borne, paid, and defrayed, out of the Firſt Monies which ſhall ariſe or be collected by virtue of this Act.

Treaſurer to pay the Money re-

IX. And be it further enacted, That the Treaſurer and Treaſurers to be appointed under and by virtue of this Act, ſhall, and he and they is

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and are hereby required from Time to Time to pay all and every such Sum and Sums of Money as he or they ſhall receive by virtue or in purſuance of this Act, unto the Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Veſtrymen of the ſaid Pariſh, or to ſuch Perſon or Perſons as they, or any Five or more of them, ſhall, by any Writing or Writings under their Hands, order or direct for the Purpoſes of this Act, for the Relief of the Poor of the ſaid Pariſh, and ſuch incidental Purpoſes as the Poor Rate is now by Law applicable unto.

ceived by him for the Purpoſes of this Act to the Churchwardens, &c.

X. And be it further enacted, That the Penalties and Forfeitures impoſed by this Act, and the Coſts and Charges of the Recovery thereof, ſhall be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant or Warrants under the Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals of One or more of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County of *Middleſex*, which Warrant or Warrants ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices is and are hereby empowered and required to grant, on the Confeſſion of the Party or Parties, or upon the Information of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes upon Oath; and all Penalties and Forfeitures, when ſo recovered, ſhall be paid to the Treaſurer or Treaſurers of the ſaid Pariſh for the Time being; and if no ſuch Goods or Chattels of ſuch Offender or Offenders can be found ſufficient to anſwer and ſatisfy ſuch Penalties and Forfeitures, and the Charges of Diſtreſs and Sale, then it ſhall be lawful for ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices and he and they is and are hereby authorized and required, by Warrant or Warrants under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, to commit every ſuch Offender or Offenders to the Common Gaol of the ſaid County, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize for any Time not exceeding Six Weeks nor leſs than Seven Days, unleſs ſuch Penalties and Forfeitures, and all reaſonable Charges, ſhall be ſooner fully paid and ſatisfied.

For Recovery and Application of Penalties.

XI. And be it further enacted, That the Rates or Aſſeſſments by this Act impoſed ſhall and may, on Refuſal to pay the ſame, be recovered in ſuch Manner as the Rates made for the Relief of the Poor are directed to be recovered, by an Act made in the Forty-third Year of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, for the Relief of the Poor, or by any ſubſequent Act or Acts relating to the Relief of the Poor; which ſaid ſeveral Methods of recovering the ſaid Rates or Aſſeſſments for the Relief of the Poor ſhall and they are hereby declared to be legal Methods and Ways of enforcing the Payment of Rates or Aſſeſſments directed to be paid in purſuance of this Act, as fully and effectually as if ſuch Methods were repeated and re-enacted in the Body of this Act.

For Recovery of the Rates.

XII. And it is hereby further enacted, That when and as often as any Diſtreſs ſhall be made for Nonpayment of any of the ſaid Rates, hereby directed to be made or authorized to be collected, or any Part thereof, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Perſon or Perſons making ſuch Diſtreſs to raiſe and levy the reaſonable Charges of making ſuch Diſtreſs, and ſelling and diſpoſing of the ſame, over and above the Sum of Money due upon the Rate or Rates for which ſuch Diſtreſs ſhall be taken.

Expence of making Diſtreſs to be paid with the Rates.

XIII. Provided nevertheleſs, and be it enacted, That in caſe any Perſon whomſoever ſhall think himſelf or herſelf aggrieved by any Thing done by virtue of this Act, it ſhall and may be lawful for ſuch Perſon to appeal

Perſons aggrieved may appeal to Two Juſtices;

to Two or more Juſtices of the Peace for the County of *Middleſex*, and acting for the ſame, who ſhall have Power, and they are hereby authorized to hear and determine the ſaid Complaint, and if they ſee juſt Cauſe, to order the Perſon ſo appealing to be relieved in ſuch Manner as they ſhall think proper: Provided always, that in caſe ſuch Perſon ſo appealing as aforeſaid, or the ſaid Churchwardens and Overſeers, or the major Part of them, ſhall be diſſatisfied with ſuch Determination, that then it ſhall and may be lawful either for the Perſon ſo appealing, or for the ſaid Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor, or the major Part of them, for and on the Behalf of the ſaid Pariſh, to appeal to the then next General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace to be holden for the County of *Middleſex*, which ſhall happen next after the Expiration of Fourteen Days from the ſaid Determination, upon Six Days Notice to be given by the Party appealing; and it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Juſtices aſſembled at ſuch General or Quarter Seſſions, or the major Part of them, to hear and finally determine the Matter of the ſaid Complaint, and give Coſts at their Diſcretion.

but if diſſatisfied, may afterwards appeal to the Quarter Seſſions.

Inhabitants may be Witneſſes.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That any Inhabitant or Inhabitants of the ſaid Pariſh ſhall and may, and he, ſhe, and they, is and are hereby declared not to be an incompetent Witneſs or Witneſſes, by reaſon of being ſuch Inhabitant or Inhabitants, in any Action, Suit, Complaint, Proſecution, or Proceeding, to be had, conducted, made, proſecuted, or carried on, under the Authority of this Act, or of any other Act or Acts heretofore enacted, and now in force for the Relief of the Poor, in ſuch and in the ſame Manner as he, ſhe, or they, would or might have been if he, ſhe, or they, was or were reſident in any other Pariſh or Place.

Poor Laws to continue in Force, except where altered by this Act.

XV. And be it further enacted, That the ſeveral Laws relating to the Overſeers of the Poor, and for the Relief and providing for the Poor, ſhall continue in force within the ſaid Pariſh of *Saint Mary Stratford Bow*, except where the ſame are altered by this preſent Act.

Limitation of Actions.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That if any Action or Suit ſhall be brought or commenced againſt any Perſon or Perſons for any Thing done in purſuance of this Act, or in relation to the Premiſes, then and in every ſuch Caſe ſuch Action ſhall be commenced within Six Months after the Fact committed, and not afterwards, and ſhall be laid and brought in the County of *Middleſex*, and not elſewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in ſuch Action or Actions to be brought may plead the General Iſſue, and give this Act, and the ſpecial Matter in Evidence, at any Trial to be had thereupon, and that the ſame was done in purſuance and by Authority of this Act; and if it ſhall appear to be ſo done, or if any ſuch Action or Suit ſhall be brought after the Time before limited for bringing the ſame, or ſhall be brought in any other County or Place, then and in ſuch Caſe the Jury ſhall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and if upon ſuch Verdict, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs ſhall become nonſuited, or diſcontinue his, her, or their Action or Actions, or if a Verdict ſhall paſs againſt the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, or if upon Demurrer Judgement ſhall be given againſt the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants ſhall and may recover Treble Coſts, and have the like Remedy for the ſame as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have for Coſts of Suit in other Caſes by Law.

General Iſſue.

Treble Coſts.

XVII. And

XVII. And be it further enacted, That this Act ſhall be deemed and taken to be a Publick Act, and ſhall be judicially taken Notice of as ſuch, by all Judges, Juſtices, and other Perſons whomſoever, without ſpecially pleading the ſame. Publick Act.

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