ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO OCTAVO

# GEORGII III. REGIS.

**************************************************

## C A P. LXIX.

## An Act for the Regulation of Parish Vestries.

[3d *June* 1818.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the Manner of holding Parish Vestries, and the Right of voting therein: 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 from and after the First Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and eighteen, no Vestry or Meeting of the Inhabitants in Vestry of or for any Parish shall be holden until public Notice shall have been given of such Vestry, and of the Place and Hour of holding the same, and the special Purpose thereof, Three Days at the least before the Day to be appointed for holding such Vestry, by the Publication of such Notice in the Parish Church or Chapel on some *Sunday* during or immediately after Divine Service, and by affixing the same, fairly written or printed, on the principal Door of such Church or Chapel.

Three Days Notice to be given of Vestries; by Publication in the Church, and affixing on the Church Door.

II. And for the more orderly Conduct of Vestries, be it further enacted, That in case the Rector or Vicar or perpetual Curate shall not be present, the Persons so assembled in pursuance of such Notice shall forthwith nominate and appoint by Plurality of Votes, to be ascertained as herein-after is directed, One of the Inhabitants of such Parish to be the Chairman of and preside in every such Vestry; and in all Cases of Equality of Votes upon any Question arising therein, the Chairman

Chairman of Vestries appointed.

Chairman to have the casting Vote.



man

man ſhall (in addition to ſuch Vote or Votes as he may by virtue of this Act be entitled to give in right of his Aſſeſſment) have the caſting Vote; and Minutes of the Proceedings and Reſolutions of every Veſtry ſhall be fairly and diſtinctly entered in a Book (to be provided for that Purpoſe by the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor), and ſhall be ſigned by the Chairman, and by ſuch other of the Inhabitants preſent as ſhall think proper to ſign the ſame.

Minutes to be entered and ſigned.

Manner of voting in Veſtries.

III. And be it further enacted, That in all ſuch Veſtries every Inhabitant preſent, who ſhall, by the laſt Rate which ſhall have been made for the Relief of the Poor, have been aſſeſſed and charged upon or in reſpect of any annual Rent, Profit, or Value not amounting to Fifty Pounds, ſhall have and be entitled to give One Vote and no more; and every Inbitant there preſent, who ſhall in ſuch laſt Rate have been aſſeſſed or charged upon or in reſpect of any annual Rent or Rents, Profit or Value, amounting to Fifty Pounds or upwards (whether in one or in more than one Sum or Charge), ſhall have and be entitled to give One Vote for every Twenty-five Pounds of annual Rent, Profit, and Value upon or in reſpect of which he ſhall have been aſſeſſed or charged in ſuch laſt Rate, ſo nevertheleſs that no Inhabitant ſhall be entitled to give more than Six Votes; and in Caſes where Two or more of the Inhabitants preſent ſhall be jointly rated, each of them ſhall be entitled to vote according to the Proportion and Amount which ſhall be borne by him of the joint Charge; and where One only of the Perſons jointly rated ſhall attend, he ſhall be entitled to vote according to and in reſpect of the whole of the joint Charge.

Inhabitants coming into a Pariſh ſince the laſt Rate may vote.

IV. Provided, and be it further enacted, That when any Perſon ſhall have become an Inhabitant of any Pariſh, or become liable to be rated therein ſince the making of the laſt Rate for the Relief of the Poor thereof, he ſhall be entitled to vote for and in reſpect of the Lands, Tenements, and Property for which he ſhall have become liable to be rated and ſhall conſent to be rated, in like Manner as if he ſhould have been actually rated for the ſame.

Inhabitants refuſing Payment of Rates to be excluded from Veſtries.

V. Provided alſo, and it is hereby further enacted, That no Perſon who ſhall have refuſed or neglected to pay any Rate for the Relief of the Poor, which ſhall be due from and ſhall have been demanded of him, and ſhall be entitled to vote or to be preſent in any Veſtry of the Pariſh for which ſuch Rate ſhall have been made, until he ſhall have paid the ſame.

For Preſervation of Pariſh Books and Papers.

VI. And be it further enacted, That as well the Books hereby directed to be provided and kept for the Entry of the Proceedings of Veſtries, as all former Veſtry Books, and all Rates and Aſſeſſments, Accounts and Vouchers of the Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and Surveyors of the Highways, and other Pariſh Officers, and all Certificates, Orders of Courts and of Juſtices, and other Pariſh Books, Documents, Writings, and public Papers of every Pariſh, except the Regiſtry of Marriages, Baptiſms, and Burials, ſhall be kept by ſuch Perſon and Perſons, and depoſited in ſuch Place and Manner, as the Inhabitants in Veſtry aſſembled ſhall direct; and if any Perſon in whoſe Hands or Cuſtody any ſuch Book, Rate, Aſſeſſment, Account, Voucher, Certificate, Order, Document, Writing, or

Penalty on retaining or injuring Pariſh Books, &c.

Paper ſhall be, ſhall wilfully or negligently deſtroy, obliterate, or injure the ſame, or ſuffer the ſame to be deſtroyed, obliterated, or injured, or ſhall, after reaſonable Notice and Demand, refuſe or neglect to deliver the ſame to ſuch Perſon or Perſons, or to depoſit the ſame in ſuch Place as ſhall by the Order of any ſuch Veſtry be directed, every Perſon ſo offending, and being lawfully convicted thereof on his own Confeſſion, or on the Oath of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, by and before Two of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, upon Complaint thereof to them made, ſhall for every ſuch Offence forfeit and pay ſuch Sum, not exceeding Fifty Pounds, nor leſs than Forty Shillings, as ſhall by ſuch Juſtices be adjudged and determined; and the ſame ſhall be recovered and levied by Warrant of ſuch Juſtices in ſuch Manner and by ſuch Ways and Means as Poor's Rates in Arrear are by Law to be recovered and levied, and ſhall be paid to the Overſeers of the Poor of the Pariſh againſt which the Offence ſhall be committed, or to ſome of them, and be applied for and towards the Relief of the Poor thereof: Provided nevertheleſs, that every Perſon who ſhall unlawfully retain in his Cuſtody, or ſhall refuſe to deliver to any Perſon or Perſons authorized to receive the ſame, or who ſhall obliterate, deſtroy, or injure, or ſuffer to be obliterated, deſtroyed, or injured, any Book, Rate, Aſſeſſment, Account, Voucher, Certificate, Order, Document, Writing, or Paper belonging to any Pariſh, or to the Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, or Surveyors of the Highways thereof, may in every ſuch Caſe be proceeded againſt in any of His Majeſty's Courts, civilly or criminally, in like Manner as if this Act had not been made.

Recovery and Application of Penalty.

Not to affect other Proceedings.

VII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That all Proviſions, 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 the Directions and Regulations herein contained in regard to Veſtries, ſhall extend and be applied to all Meetings which may by Law be holden of the Inhabitants of any Pariſh, Townſhip, Vill, or Place, for any of the Purpoſes in this Act expreſſed; and that the Notices by this Act required to be given of every Veſtry may, in Places in which there is or ſhall be no Pariſh Church or Chapel, or where there ſhall not be Divine Service in ſuch Church or Chapel, be given and publiſhed in ſuch Manner as Notices of the like Nature ſhall have been there uſually given and publiſhed, or as ſhall be moſt effectual for communicating the ſame to the Inhabitants of every ſuch Pariſh, Townſhip, Vill, or Place reſpectively.

Proviſions in relation to Pariſhes extended to Townſhips, &c.

Manner of giving Notices of Veſtries and Meetings in ſpecial Caſes.

VIII. Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend or be conſtrued to extend to alter the Time of holding any Veſtry, Pariſh, or Town Meeting which is by the Authority of any Act required to be holden on any certain Day, or within any certain Time in ſuch Act preſcribed and directed; nor ſhall any Thing in this Act contained extend to take away, leſſen, prejudice, or affect the Powers of any Veſtry or Meeting holden in any Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, by virtue of any ſpecial Act or Acts, of any ancient and ſpecial Uſage or Cuſtom, or to change or affect the Right or Manner of voting in any Veſtry or Meeting ſo holden.

Not to alter the Time for holding Veſtries ſpecially directed;

nor to affect Special Veſtries.

IX. Provi-

Not to extend to London;

IX. Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to any Parish within the City of *London*.

nor to Southwark.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to any Parish in the Borough of *Southwark*.

To extend only to England and Wales.

XI. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall extend only to that Part of the United Kingdom called *England* and *Wales*; and that the same shall be a Public Act, and be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and others, without specially pleading the same.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1818.