Anno tricesimo tertio

Georgii II. Regis.

An Act to enforce and render more effectual the Laws relating to the Qualification of Members to sit in the House of Commons.



WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen Anne, intituled, An Act for securing the Freedom of Parliaments, by the farther qualifying the Members to sit in the House of Commons, it was enacted, That no Person should be capable to sit or vote, as a Member of the House of Commons for any County, City, Borough, or Cinque Port, within that Part of Great Britain

Preamble, reciting Clauses in Act 9 *Anne*,

Britain called England, the Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed, who should not have an Estate, Freehold or Copyhold, for his own Life, or for some greater Estate, either in Law or Equity, to and for his own Use and Benefit, of or in Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, over and above what would satisfy and clear all Incumbrances that might affect the same, lying or being within that Part of Great Britain called England, the Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed, of the respective annual Value therein limited; videlicet, The annual Value of Six hundred Pounds, above Reprizes, for every Knight of a Shire; and the annual Value of Three hundred Pounds, above Reprizes, for every Citizen, Burgess, or Baron of the Cinque Ports: Now, in order to enforce and render the said Act more effectual, 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 Determination of this present Parliament, every Person, except as is herein after excepted, who shall be elected a Member of the House of Commons, shall, before he presumes to vote in the House of Commons, or sit there during any Debate in the said House of Commons, after their Speaker is chosen, produce and deliver in to the Clerk of the said House, at the Table in the Middle of the said House, and whilst the House of Commons is there duly sitting, with their Speaker in the Chair of the said House, a Paper or Account signed by every such Member, containing the Name or Names of the Parish, Township, or Precinct, or of the several Parishes, Townships, or Precincts, and also of the County, or of the several Counties, in which the Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, do lie, whereby he makes

All Members in future Parliaments (not particularly excepted) before they act, are to deliver in at the Table, while the House is sitting, a signed Schedule of their respective Qualifications,

out his Qualification, declaring the same to be of the annual Value of Six hundred Pounds, above Reprizes, if a Knight of a Shire; and of the annual Value of Three hundred Pounds, above Reprizes, if a Citizen, Burgess, or Baron of the Cinque Ports; and shall also, at the same Time, take and subscribe the following Oath; videlicet, and take and subscribe the following Oath,

I A. B. do swear, That I truly and *bona fide* have such an Estate in Law or Equity, and of such Value, to and for my own Use and Benefit, of or in Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, over and above what will satisfy and clear all Incumbrances that may affect the same, as doth qualify me to be elected and returned to serve as a Member for the Place I am returned for, according to the Tenor and true Meaning of the Acts of Parliament in that Behalf; and that such Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, do lie as described in the Paper or Account signed by me, and now delivered to the Clerk of the House of Commons.

So help me GOD.

And the said House of Commons is hereby impowered and required to administer the said Oath and Subscription, according to the Directions of this Act, as Occasion shall be, from time to time, to every Person duly demanding the same, immediately after such Person shall have taken the Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, and Abjuration, at the said Table: And the said Oath and Subscription herein before directed to be taken and made, shall be entered in a Parchment Roll, to be provided for that Purpose by the Clerk of the House of Commons; and the said Papers or Accounts so signed and delivered in to the said Clerk as aforesaid, shall be filed and carefully kept by him. which is to be administered by the House, and enrolled, after the usual Oaths of Qualification have been taken; and the Schedules to be filed.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person, who shall be elected to serve in any Any Member presuming to act contrary hereto,

future Parliament as a Knight of a Shire, or as a Citizen, Burgess, or Baron of the Cinque Ports, shall presume to sit or vote as aforesaid as a Member of the House of Commons, before he has delivered in such Paper or Account, and taken and subscribed such Oath as aforesaid, or shall not be qualified according to the true Intent and Meaning of the said recited Act, and of this Act; his Election shall be and is hereby declared to be void, and a new Writ shall be issued to elect another Member in the said Person's Room.

or without being duly qualified, his Election is void; and a new Writ is to issue.

Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to the eldest Son or Heir Apparent of any Peer or Lord of Parliament, or of any Person qualified to serve as a Knight of a Shire, or to the Members for either of the Universities in that Part of Great Britain called England, or to the Members for that Part of Great Britain called Scotland. 3

Persons excepted out of the General Qualification.

FINIS.