Anno decimo

Georgii III. Regis.

An Act for the better maintaining, regulating, and employing, the Poor within the Parish of *Saint Paul Shadwell*, in the County of *Middlesex*.

WHEREAS the Poor of the Parish of Saint Paul Shadwell, in the County of Middlesex, are very numerous, and are maintained at a great Expence: And whereas the granting of proper Powers for the better governing, maintaining, and regulating the said Poor, and providing a Place for their general Reception, will tend to the more effectual Relief of such as by Age or Infirmities are rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their Labour, to the better Employment of the Able and Industrious, to the proper Correction of the Profligate and Idle, and to the Education of poor Children in Religion and Industry: 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 Preamble.

First Meeting of Vestry

by the Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, of the said Parish of Saint Paul Shadwell (qualified as herein after is mentioned) are hereby authorised and required to meet together in the Vestry Room belonging to the said Parish Church, or in some other convenient Place within the said Parish, for the First Time, on the Tuesday in Easter Week, One thousand seven hundred and seventy, or within Fourteen Days after; and afterwards annually on Wednesday in Easter Week, or within Twenty Days next after, or oftener, from Time to Time, as Occasion shall require; and the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them, so assembled, shall then and there, from Time to Time, ascertain what Monies shall be assessed within the Limits of the said Parish, for the Relief and Employment of the Poor within the said Parish, and for the other Purposes of this Act.

for ascertaining Assessments.

Qualification of Vestrymen.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the Time being, and all other Persons, being Inhabitants of the said Parish, who by Law are intitled to vote for the Choice of parochial Officers within the said Parish, shall be Vestrymen of the said Parish for the Time being.

Persons incapacitated.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person shall be capable of acting as a Vestryman for the Purposes of this Act, during such Time as he shall have any Share or Interest in any Contract, or enjoy any beneficial Employment under or by virtue of this Act.

A Rate to be made.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, shall meet together in the Vestry Room of the said Parish, or in some other convenient Place within the said Parish, within Thirty Days next after the said Sums of Money shall have been so ascertained as aforesaid, or oftener, from Time to Time, as Occasion shall require; and at such Meeting or Meetings, the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them, so met, shall, and they are hereby required to make a Rate or Assessment, for the Relief and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish, upon all and every Person and Persons who do and shall inhabit, hold, occupy, or enjoy, any Land, House, Shop, Warehouse, or any other Build-

ing,

ing, Tenement, or Hereditament within the said Parish, and on every other Person who by Law is chargeable and assessable for and towards the Relief of the Poor within the said Parish.

Houses let in separate Apartments, &c. how to be charged.

And whereas there are divers Houses or Buildings in the said Parish, which are let out in separate Parcels or Apartments, and other Houses let ready-furnished to Lodgers, whereby the Payment of the said Rate or Assessment may be evaded: For Remedy whereof, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Person, whether Landlord or Tenant, who shall let out his or her House in separate Parcels or Apartments, or ready-furnished, to a Lodger or Lodgers, shall, for the several Purposes of this Act be deemed and taken to be the Occupiers thereof, and may be rated or assessed accordingly, and shall be liable and subject to the Payment of the Sum so rated or assessed.

Lodgers Goods liable.

Provided always, That the Goods and Chattels of each and every Person renting or occupying any separate Part or Apartment in such House or Building, or renting or occupying any ready-furnished House, or any Part thereof, shall be liable to be distrained and sold for the Payment of the said Rate or Assessment; and that each and every Person who shall pay such Rate or Assessment so charged on his or her respective Landlord or Landlords, or upon whose Goods or Chattels the same shall be levied in pursuance of this Act, shall and may deduct the same from and out of the Rent due and payable from Time to Time to his, her, or their respective Landlord or Landlords so letting out the same; and the Receipt for such Payment shall be a sufficient Discharge to his or her said Landlord or Landlords for so much Money as he or she shall have so paid, or as shall have been levied on his or her Goods and Chattels in pursuance of this Act.

Workhouses to be provided.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, or the major Part of them, with any Nine or more of the Vestrymen of the said Parish, shall have full Power and Authority, and they are hereby authorised and impowered to purchase or hire by Lease, for no less Term than Ninety-nine Years, any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, and from Time to Time to alter, repair, and furnish any Buildings that shall be standing on the same, for the better receiving, employing, and maintaining the Poor of the said Parish; or may erect thereon One or more House or Houses for the like

Purpose, and provide Furniture for the same, or for such Workhouse or Workhouses as may be hired in Manner herein after mentioned; and by and out of the Monies to be received for the Purchase of the Annuities herein after authorised to be granted, shall pay and satisfy the Purchase-money for the same, and all necessary Charges relating thereto; and also all Money which shall be justly due to the Artificers, Workmen, and others employed in and about erecting, altering, repairing, and furnishing the said House or Houses, and in and about other Matters and Things concerning the same.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or the major Part of them, with any Nine or more of the Vestrymen of the said Parish, may and have hereby Power and Authority, if they think proper, to contract for the Hire of any House or Houses, Building or Buildings, within or contiguous to the said Parish, for the Purposes aforesaid; and the Rent or Rents which shall be reserved and made payable for the same, as also the Rent or Rents reserved and made payable by or upon any Purchase as aforesaid, shall be charged upon, and shall from Time to Time be paid out of the Monies arising by the Rate herein directed to be made for the Relief and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish.

Money may be raised by Annuities.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any Person or Persons to contribute, advance, and pay to the said Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor, or the major Part of them, with any Nine or more Vestrymen of the said Parish, or to such Person or Persons as they shall appoint for that Purpose, any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Two thousand five hundred Pounds, for the absolute Purchase of One or more Annuity or Annuities, to be paid and payable during the natural Life of every such Contributor, or the natural Life of such other Person as shall be nominated by or on Behalf of such respective Contributor at the Time of Payment of his or her respective Contribution-money; which Annuity or Annuities shall not exceed the Rate of Eight Pounds per Annum for every One hundred Pounds, and so in proportion for any greater or lesser Sum to be advanced as aforesaid; and shall be payable and paid in the Vestry-room of the said Parish, or such other Place in the said Parish as the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor shall from Time to Time appoint, by

Four

Four equal Quarterly Payments in the Year; the First of such Payments to begin and be made to the respective Purchasers, or their Assigns, at the Expiration of Three Calendar Months next after Payment of his or their respective Purchase-money; which Annuities shall be publickly sold in the Vestry-room belonging to the said Parish to the best Bidder for the same, on Twelve Days Notice thereof being first given in the London Gazette, or other publick News-paper, and a like Notice affixed upon some or one of the Doors of the said Parish Church, signifying such Intention; and the Money arising by the Sale of such Annuities shall be applied for and towards providing or procuring Land for building a Workhouse or Workhouses upon, and building, altering, or repairing such Workhouse or Workhouses as shall be necessary for the Relief and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish, and for and towards furnishing such Workhouse and Workhouses, and to and for no other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

Subscribers Names to be entered in a Book.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That there shall be provided by the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, One or more Book or Books, in which shall be fairly written, in Words at Length, the Names, proper Additions, and Places of Abode of all such Persons as shall be Purchasers of any of the said respective Annuities, and of all Persons by whose Hands the said Purchasers shall pay in any Sum or Sums of Money, and also the Sum and Sums so paid for the Purchase of such Annuity or Annuities respectively, and the Days of Payment thereof, and also an Account of the Interest that shall be paid to the said Annuitant or Annuitants from Time to Time, and by whom received; and that it shall be lawful for the said respective Purchasers, their Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, Agent or Agents, and to and for any Person or Persons paying to the Rates or Assessments made by virtue of this Act, from Time to Time, and at all seasonable Times, to have Recourse to and inspect the same without Fee or Reward.

Annuities chargeable on the Rates;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Annuities to be purchased shall be and are hereby charged upon the Rate or Assessment to be made by virtue of this Act; and the Contributor or Contributors, duly paying the Consideration or Purchase-money for any such Annuity or Annuities, or such Person or Persons as he, she, or they shall appoint his, her, or their respective Assigns,

Assigns, shall have, receive, and enjoy, and by virtue of this Act be intitled to have, receive, and enjoy the said Annuity or Annuities out of the said Rate or Assessment, during the Term of the natural Life of the Person to be nominated by each Purchaser or Contributor in Manner aforesaid; and that all and every such Purchaser and Purchasers, and his and their Assigns respectively, shall have good, sure, absolute, and indefeasible personal Estate and Interest in the Annuities so by them respectively purchased, according to the true Meaning of this Act; and none of the aforesaid Annuities shall be subject or liable to the Tax charged upon Lands by Authority of Parliament, or any publick or parochial Tax.

and not liable to Taxes.

They may be assigned.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Purchaser or Purchasers of any such respective Annuity or Annuities, his, her, and their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, at any Time or Times, by Writing under his, her, or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals (without any Stamp thereon) to assign such Annuity or Annuities, or any Part thereof or Interest therein, to any Person or Persons whatsoever, and so toties quoties; and a Memorandum or Entry of all such Assignments, and the Days the same were brought to be so entered, shall be made in a Book hereby required to be kept for that Purpose by the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor; and that the said Entry shall be made gratis, and shall and may at all seasonable Times be inspected by any Persons interested therein; but no such Assignments shall be deemed good and effectual, until such Memorandum or Entry shall be made.

Proceedings to be entered in Books.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, shall cause all Contracts made with or by the Artificers and Workmen, or others, employed, or to be employed, in or about the said Workhouse or Workhouses, and all Receipts, Payments, Debts, and Credits, and any Matter or Thing relating thereto, and all other their Proceedings in the Execution of this Act, to be fairly written and entered in a Book or Books to be provided for those Purposes; which shall, from Time to Time, and at all convenient Times, be open to the Inspection and Perusal of all Persons paying to the Rate made by virtue of this Act.

Committee to be appointed.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them, at

at their annual Meetings assembled, and they are hereby required to elect, nominate, and appoint Twelve of the said Vestrymen, who shall be and are hereby appointed a Committee, to assist the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor in issuing Orders and making Regulations for the maintaining and employing the Poor of the said Parish for that Year.

For regulating the Poor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, and Committee to be appointed as aforesaid, for the Time being, or the major Part of them, at a publick Meeting assembled, shall, and they are hereby impowered from Time to Time to issue such Orders as they shall think proper, for maintaining, regulating, and employing the Poor of the said Parish; and to purchase Provisions and Materials for those Purposes; and to take the Benefit of the Work, Labour, and Service of every such Person or Persons who shall be kept and maintained by virtue of this Act, to be applied for the Purpose of this Act.

Penalty on Persons embezzling Goods, &c. belonging to the Poor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person maintained in any Workhouse or Workhouses belonging to the said Parish shall embezzle or purloin any Part of the Apparel provided for any of the Poor, or of the Goods or Provisions provided for or belonging to the said Workhouse or Workhouses, or any Materials for Work, or be guilty of prophane Cursing or Swearing, Drunkenness, or of any lewd, immoral, or indecent Behaviour, or refuse to perform the Work or Service which he or she shall be required to do, or shall be remiss therein, or otherwise misbehave himself or herself; it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, and Committee, or the major Part of them (the Upper Churchwarden being always one) to cause such Person or Persons so offending to be punished in such Workhouse, either by Confinement, Distinction in Dress, Diet, or such other Method as may best tend to prevent such Offences for the future.

Care to be taken of deserted Children,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or any One of them, to cause such Child or Children, as he or they shall judge to be under the Age of Twelve Years, who shall be found wandering or begging in the said Parish, to be taken and sent to any of the Workhouses belonging

to the said Parish, there to be detained and employed until he or she shall attain, or, in case his or her Age cannot be ascertained, until he or she shall be adjudged by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish to have attained, the Age of Twenty-one Years, or be married, unless sooner discharged by the said Churchwardens and Overseers, or by due Course of Law; and also it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or any One or more of them, to cause such Person or Persons as shall be found wandering, or begging, or misbehave themselves in the said Parish, to be sent to the said Workhouses, there to be detained and employed for so long Time as the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Committee shall think proper, or until they shall be discharged by due Course of Law; and in case of any Misbehaviour of any such Person, the same Methods of Punishment may be used with them as are herein before directed to be used with respect to the Poor within the said Workhouse or Workhouses.

and wandering Poor.

Provided always, That no such Child or Children, or other Person or Persons so taken and sent to the said Workhouse, shall gain any Settlement by residing therein.

No Settlement to be gained thereby.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Rates or Assessments by this Act authorised to be collected, shall and may, on Refusal or Neglect to pay the same for the Space of Ten Days after personal Demand thereof, or Demand in Writing left at the Place of Abode or Occupation of the Person or Persons who ought 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 Churchwardens or Overseers, 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 the Rates or Assessments directed to be made in pursuance of this Act, as fully and effectually as if such Methods were repeated and re-enacted in the Body of this Act.

Rates how to be recovered,

(Act 43 *Eliz.*)

And it is hereby further enacted, That when and as often as any Distress shall be made for Non-payment of any of the said Rates hereby directed to be made, or any

and Charges of Distress.

Part

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); such Charges, in case of any Dispute relating thereto, to be ascertained and settled by the Justices of the Peace granting such Warrant of Distress respectively.

And whereas it may happen that many Persons liable to, and that may be charged and rated towards, the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish, may, before the Sums which shall be so rated on them respectively shall be paid, quit and leave their Dwelling-houses, Warehouses, Shops, Vaults, Cellars, or Tenements in the said Parish so rated and assessed, and remove into some other Parishes or Places, or out of the Limits thereof, and thereby endeavour to evade the Payment of such Rates and Assessments: Be it therefore enacted, That where any Person or Persons who shall be so rated and assessed shall quit his, her, or their Dwelling-house, Warehouse, Shop, Vault, Cellar, or Tenement in the said Parish, before he, she, or they shall have paid the same, and shall afterwards refuse to pay the same when due, and demanded by the Person or Persons authorised and appointed to collect and receive the same; that then and in every such Case it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Receiver or Receivers, and every or any of them, by Warrant obtained under the Hands and Seals of any Two or more Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, or for the City and Liberty of Westminster, as the Case shall happen, (which Warrant the said Justices are hereby authorised and required to grant in any Place within the said County, City, and Liberty, Parishes or Places; or out of the Limits thereof, such Warrant being first backed or countersigned by some Magistrates in the County, City, or Liberty where the Distress is to be made) to distrain the Goods and Chattels of such Person or Persons so neglecting or refusing, and the same to sell, rendering the Overplus, if any shall be, after having deducted the reasonable Charges and Expences of such Distress and Sale, to the Owner of such Goods and Chattles demanding the same; to be ascertained in like Manner as the Costs and Charges of other Distresses and Sales are herein provided and directed to be ascertained.

Rates may be levied by Distress and Sale.

And

Former Poors Laws (unless hereby altered) to continue in Force.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, 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, except where the same are altered by this present Act.

No other Poors Rate to be made.

Provided always, That no Rate or Assessment shall be made for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish, other than is in and by this Act directed.

Penalty on Persons buying or receiving into Pawn Cloaths, &c. belonging to the Poor, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall knowingly buy, or receive into Pawn, any of the Cloaths or Wearing Apparel of any of the Poor who shall hereafter be received into and maintained in the Workhouse or Workhouses of the said Parish, or who shall knowingly buy, or receive into Pawn, any of the Goods or Materials carried into the said Workhouse or Workhouses to be wrought up, manufactured, or used by the Poor there, or any of the Goods and Furniture of the said Workhouse or Workhouses; every Person so offending in any of the said Cases, and being thereof convicted by his or their own Confession, or by the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex (which Oath such Justice or Justices is and are hereby authorised and required to administer) shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of Forty Shillings; One Moiety whereof shall go to the Informer, and the other Moiety shall be paid to the Upper Churchwarden of the said Parish, for the Purposes of this Act; and if any Offender shall not on such Conviction forthwith pay the said Money, the said Justices respectively, by Warrant under his or their Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals, shall cause the same to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Offender, and the Overplus, after such Forfeiture and Charges of such Distress and Sale are deducted and paid, shall be returned, upon Demand, to the Owner of such Goods and Chattels; and in case sufficient Distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful for such Justice or Justices, and he and they is and are hereby respectively authorised and required, by Warrant under his or their Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals, to cause such Offender to be committed to the House of Correction for the said County of Middlesex for any Time not exceeding One Calendar Month, unless such Forfeiture and all reasonable Charges shall be sooner paid and satisfied.

Penalty may be levied by Distress and Sale.

For want of Distress, Offender to be committed.

And

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Overseer or Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, and all other Persons employed to collect the Money authorised by this Act to be raised, shall, within the Space of Fourteen Days after the settling and adjusting his or their Account, verify the same on Oath before One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, if he or they shall be required so to do by any Five or more of the Vestrymen of the said Parish; and in case of Refusal, it shall be lawful for the said Justice or Justices respectively to commit him or them so refusing to the House of Correction, for any Time not exceeding Two Calendar Months. Collectors to account on Oath. Officers refusing to account, to be committed.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all the Expences in and about procuring and passing this Act shall be borne, paid, and defrayed, out of the first Monies which shall be raised by virtue of this Act. Expences of this Act how to be paid.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, 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, that in every such Case the Action shall be commenced within Six Calendar Months after the Fact committed; and shall be 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 the 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 limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County or Place than as aforesaid, then and in every such Case the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and if upon such Verdict, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become Nonsuit, 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. Limitation of Actions. General Issue. Treble Costs.

Publick Act. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, 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 whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.