Anno tertio

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XVI.

An Act to impower the Commiſſioners or Governors of the Royal Hoſpital for Seamen at *Greenwich*, after defraying the neceſſary Expences thereof, to provide for ſuch Seamen worn out and become decrepit in the Service of their Country, who ſhall not be provided for within the ſaid Hoſpital; and to enable them to receive ſuch Penſions as ſhall be granted them by the ſaid Commiſſioners or Governors, in the moſt eaſy and convenient Manner; and for preventing Frauds and Abuſes attending the ſame.

WHEREAS by ſeveral Acts of Parliament, ſundry Eſtates, Rents, and Sums of Money are granted, and ſpecially appropriated, for and towards the finiſhing and completing the Building of the Royal Hoſpital for Seamen at Greenwich; and for and towards the Maintenance of the Seamen in the ſaid Hoſpital worn out and become decrepit in the Service of their Country: And whereas no Part of the ſaid Eſtates, Rents, and Sums of Money, can be applied by the Commiſſioners or Governors of the ſaid Hoſpital, for or towards the Relief of any worn out or decrepit Seamen, who are not provided for within the ſaid Hoſpital: And whereas the Revenues of the ſaid Hoſpital will probably be ſufficient to provide for a conſiderable Number of poor Seamen, as Out Penſioners, and it would tend to the Increaſe and Encouragement of Preamble.

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Seamen, if the ſaid Commiſſioners or Governors were enabled, after defraying the Expences of the ſaid Hoſpital, to provide for ſuch Seamen as Out Penſioners of the ſaid Hoſpital: Therefore, 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 it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Commiſſioners or Governors of the Royal Hoſpital for Seamen at Greenwich, and they are hereby authorized and impowered, after defraying the neceſſary Expences of the ſaid Hoſpital, by and out of the Eſtates, Rents, Revenues, or other Monies belonging to the ſaid Hoſpital, to provide for ſuch Seamen worn out and become decrepit in the Service of their Country, who ſhall not be provided for within the ſaid Hoſpital; any thing in the ſaid Acts to the contrary notwithſtanding.

The Commiſſioners, after defraying the Expences of the Hoſpital, are impowered to grant Out Penſions to ſuch worn out and decrepit Seamen in the King's Service, as are not provided for within the Hoſpital.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all Aſſignments, Bargains, Sales, Orders, Contracts, Agreements, or Securities whatſoever, which ſhall be given or made by any Out Penſioner, for, upon, or in reſpect of, any Sum or Sums of Money, to become due on any Out Penſion granted by the Commiſſioners or Governors of the ſaid Hoſpital, ſhall be abſolutely null and void to all Intents and Purpoſes.

Aſſignments, &c. of Pay, made by Out Penſioners, void.

And, the more effectually to enable ſuch Seamen to receive ſuch Out Penſions as ſhall be granted to them by the ſaid Commiſſioners or Governors, in the moſt eaſy and convenient Manner, and for preventing Frauds and Abuſes attending the ſame; be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Treaſurer of the ſaid Hoſpital for the time being, and he is hereby authorized and required, as often as there ſhall be Occaſion, to make out, or cauſe to be made out, Two Bills for every ſuch Out Penſion granted by the ſaid Commiſſioners or Governors; which Bills ſhall be Duplicates, and joined together with Oblique Lines, Flouriſhes, or Devices, in ſuch Manner as the ſaid Treaſurer ſhall think proper, and ſhall be made payable to ſuch Out Penſioner by the Receiver General of the Land Tax, Collector of the Cuſtoms, Collector of the Exciſe, or Clerk of the Cheque reſpectively, according to the Appointment in ſuch Bills; and the ſaid Bills being numbered and dated, ſhall be ſigned by the ſaid Treaſurer, or his Firſt Clerk, and atteſted by the Steward or Clerk of the Cheque of the ſaid Hoſpital, and be written or printed according to the following Form:

Treaſurer of the Hoſpital to make out Duplicates of the Out Penſions, according to the annexed Form.

THE

THE FORM.

A. N° 1. *Greenwich Hoſpital.*

SIR,

PAY to *B. D.* of in the County of The Form.
Out-Penſioner of *Greenwich Hoſpital*, upon producing the Duplicate hereof, together with a Certificate under the Hands of the Miniſter and Churchwardens, or, in that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, under the Hands of the Miniſter and Two Elders of the Pariſh where the ſaid *B. D.* reſides, that the ſaid *B. D.* to the beſt of their Knowledge and Belief, is the Perſon named in ſuch Bill, the Sum of being on account of the Out Penſion of the ſaid *B. D.* if the ſame ſhall be demanded within Six Calendar Months from the Date hereof; otherwiſe you are to return this Bill to the Treaſurer of the Royal Hoſpital at *Greenwich*, at the ſaid Hoſpital.

To { *The Receiver General of the Land Tax of the County of* / *The Collector of the Cuſtoms at the Port of* / *The Collector of the Exciſe at* / *The Clerk of the Cheque at* }

Signed (*A. B.*) Treaſurer of the Royal Hoſpital at *Greenwich*, or his Firſt Clerk.

Atteſted (*C. D.*) Steward or Clerk of the Cheque of the Royal Hoſpital at *Greenwich*.

By Virtue of the Act of the Third of King *George* the Third.

N. B. The perſonating or falſly aſſuming the Name and Character of any Out Penſioner of *Greenwich Hoſpital*, in order to receive the Out Penſion due to ſuch Out Penſioner; or procuring any other to do the ſame, is made Felony without Benefit of Clergy, by Third of King *George* the Third.

Bills to be cut asunder;

And as soon as the said Bills shall be so made out and signed, the said Treasurer shall cause them to be cut asunder, indentwise, through the oblique Lines, Flourishes, or Devices; and shall cause One of the said Bills to be transmitted forthwith to the Person nominated and specified in such Bills, and the other of the said Bills to be transmitted forthwith to the said Receiver General of the Land Tax, Collector of the Customs, Collector of the Excise, or Clerk of the Cheque, on whom such Bill shall be so drawn as aforesaid: And the said Receiver General of the Land Tax, Collector of the Customs, Collector of the Excise, and Clerk of the Cheque, if the said Duplicates of such Bill shall be produced and delivered to either of them respectively within Six Calendar Months from the Date thereof, are hereby required and enjoined to examine such Duplicate, together with the Certificate to be produced as aforesaid; and to enquire into the Truth thereof, by the Oath of the Person producing the same; which Oath they are hereby respectively authorized and required to administer; and upon being duly satisfied of the Truth of such Certificate, to testify the same on the Back of such Bill; and shall immediately pay to such Out Pensioner, without Fee or Reward on any Pretence whatsoever, the Sum contained in such Bill, taking his Receipt for the same on the Back thereof; which Bill so paid, upon being produced and delivered at the Office of the Treasurer of the Navy, shall be immediately repaid by the said Treasurer, to such Receiver General of the Land Tax, Collector of the Customs, Collector of the Excise, or Clerk of the Cheque, or to the Order of any such Receiver General, Collector of the Customs, Collector of the Excise, or Clerk of the Cheque respectively: But in case the Duplicate of such Bill shall not be produced and delivered, and the Payment thereof be demanded within Six Calendar Months from the Date thereof, or if a proper Certificate of the Person claiming such Out Pension be not likewise produced, then the said Receiver General, Collector of the Customs, Collector of the Excise, or Clerk of the Cheque, shall return such Bill to the Treasurer of the said Hospital at Greenwich, at the said Hospital, who shall cause such Bill to be cancelled; and from and after the cancelling the same, such Part of the said Pension shall accrue and become payable, in like Manner, as if the said Bill had not been made out.

One to be transmitted to the Person nominated in the Bills, and the other to the Person on whom the same is drawn.

Duplicate and Certificate to be examined when produced; and to be verified on Oath,

and testified on the Back thereof;

and Payment to be then made thereof; which is to be repaid by the Treasurer of the Navy.

If the Duplicate and Certificate be not produced, and Payment demanded within 6 Months,

the Bill to be returned to the Treasurer of the Navy, and cancelled.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any such Receiver General, Collector of the Customs, Collector of the Excise, or

or Clerk of the Cheque, to whom the Duplicate of any of the Bills herein before directed to be made out, shall be tendered for Payment, shall not then have in his Hands Publick Money sufficient to answer the same, and shall refuse or delay the immediate Payment thereof, such Receiver General, Collector of the Customs, Collector of the Excise, or Clerk of the Cheque, shall immediately indorse on the Back of the said Duplicate, the Day of its being so tendered to him, and the Cause of his Refusal or Delay to pay the same; and shall appoint thereon, for the Payment of such Bill, some future Day, within the Space of Two Months at the farthest from the Day of its having been first tendered to him, as aforesaid; which Duplicate with the Indorsement thereon shall immediately be delivered back to the Person presenting the same: And if, upon Complaint to be made to the respective Commissioners appointed by his Majesty, His Heirs, or Successors, to manage the said several Duties of the Land Tax, Customs, or Excise, or to the Commissioners of the Navy, if the Person complained of be a Clerk of the Cheque, it shall appear that such Receiver General, Collector of the Customs, Collector of the Excise, or Clerk of the Cheque, hath unnecessarily and wilfully refused or delayed the Payment of such Bill; or that such Receiver General, Collector of the Customs, Collector of the Excise, or Clerk of the Cheque, or any Person employed by or under any of them, hath directly or indirectly received or taken any Fee, Reward, Gratuity, Discount, or Deduction whatsoever, on account of the Payment of the said Bill; it shall and may be lawful to and for any Three or more of the said Commissioners to convict and fine any such Offender under their respective Direction, in any Sum not exceeding Fifty Pounds, according to the Nature and Degree of the Offence; which Conviction shall be made by such respective Commissioners, and such Fine shall be levied and recovered, in such and the same Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as any Conviction may be made, and any Penalty may be levied or recovered, for any Offence against any Law by which any Custom or Excise is imposed or laid; and the said Fine, when recovered, shall be paid to the Informer or Informers against such Offender or Offenders.

If there shall be a want of Money when any such Bill shall be tendered for Payment,

the Day of its being tendered, and the Cause of Non-payment, to be indorsed thereon; and a Day to be fixed for the Payment.

If Payment shall have been unnecessarily refused or delayed,

or any Fee, &c. taken on Account of Payment,

Offender may be fined in any Sum not exceeding 50*l.*

to be paid to the Informer.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all the Bills so paid by the said Treasurer of the Navy, shall be allowed as so much Cash, paid in ready Money, in the Accounts of the said Treasurer of the Navy, with the said Treasurer of the said Hospital at Greenwich;

Bills paid by the Treasurer of the Navy to be allowed in his Accounts.

Greenwich; and the said Treasurer of the said Hospital is hereby required and directed to allow the same accordingly; any thing to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Penalty of personating and falsely assuming the Name of any Out Pensioner in order to receive the Pension,

And whereas divers wicked Practices may be carried on by Persons knowingly and willingly personating and falsely assuming the Name and Character of any Out Pensioner of the said Hospital, in order to receive the Money due to any such Out Pensioner, on account of his Out Pension, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, whosoever willingly and knowingly shall personate or falsely assume the Name or Character of, or procure any other to personate or falsely to assume the Name or Character of, any Person intitled, or supposed to be intitled, as an Out-Pensioner, to any Out Pension or Allowance of Money from the Commissioners or Governors of the said Hospital, in order to receive the Money due, or supposed to be due, on such Out Pension; every such Person so offending, and being lawfully convicted of any such Offence or Offences, shall be deemed guilty of Felony, and suffer Death as a Felon, without Benefit of Clergy.

or procuring any other to do the same,

is Felony, without Benefit of Clergy.

FINIS.