ANNO TRICESIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. CXXVI.

An Act for amending an Act made in the Fourth Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of* Blything, *in the County of* Suffolk, and for granting some further Powers and Provisions for carrying the same more effectually into Execution. [3d *June* 1793.]

WHEREAS by an Act, made and passed in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of *Blything*, in the County of *Suffolk*, divers Provisions, and Regulations for the Management of the said Poor were enacted, which have been found very beneficial, and would be attended with still further Utility, if the same were extended and enlarged, and the Defects in the said Act amended: May it therefore please Your Preamble.

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 of the Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That, from and after the passing of this Act, all poor Persons then in the House which has been built in pursuance of the said recited Act, for the Reception of the Poor of the said Hundred; and also, all poor Persons who now do, or at any Time hereafter shall belong to any Parish or Place within the said Hundred, who are or shall be incapable of providing for themselves, and who shall apply for Relief, shall be under the Government and Management of the Guardians incorporated by the said recited Act, under the Title of The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of *Blything*, in the County of *Suffolk*; and such poor Persons as are not already in the said House, shall be from Time to Time received into the same House, and, together with the said poor Persons already in the said House, shall be provided for by the said Guardians, and be under their Government, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the said Act.

The Poor to be under the Government of Guardians.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Directors and acting Guardians of the Poor of the said Hundred for the Time being, in case they shall think fit, at their General Annual Meeting, or at any of their General Quarterly Meetings to be held as herein-after is mentioned, by Writing under the common Seal of the said Corporation, (with the Consent of any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk), to place out and bind any of the poor Children who shall be maintained in the said Poor House, to be Apprentices to such Person or Persons who shall be an Occupier or Occupiers of Lands or Tenements within the Parish or Place of the Legal Settlement of such Child or Children, and who shall ordinarily employ One or more Day Labourer or Labourers, or shall keep One or more Servant or Servants; and also, to such other Person or Persons, who shall use, exercise, or carry on any Trade, Business, Manufacture, or Profession whatsoever, in such Parish or Place as they the said Directors and acting Guardians shall in their Judgement and Discretion think proper Persons to take Apprentices, whether such Occupiers or other Persons be resident therein or not, due Regard being at all Times had to apportion the Number of Children which shall be so bound Apprentices, according to the Annual Sum at which such Occupiers or other Persons shall respectively be assessed

Regulations for binding poor Children Apprentices.

by a Pound Rate in such Parish or Place to the Relief of the Poor; and also (with the like Consent) to bind any such poor Male Child or Children to be Apprentice or Apprentices to any Captain, Master, or Owner of any Ship or Vessel in the Sea Service, in like Manner as Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, with the Assent of the Justices of the Peace, are by the Laws now in being impowered to do: Provided always, That no such Child shall be bound Apprentice as aforesaid, for a less Term than Five Years (except where the Child, being a Male, shall be above the Age of Fifteen Years, or being a Female, above the Age of Thirteen Years at the Time of such Binding); and that no such Child, being a Male, shall in any Case be bound, or continue Apprentice, after the Age of Twenty Years; or being a Female, after the Age of Eighteen Years, or Day of Marriage; and that every such Writing shall be binding, as an Indenture, between the Master or Mistress and Apprentice, and shall in all Respects have the same Effect, and operate as an Indenture for apprenticing of poor Children, whose Parents are not able to provide for them, made and executed conformable to any of the Laws now in Force relating thereto; and the Person or Persons to whom such Child or Children shall be so bound Apprentice, shall be obliged to execute a Counterpart of such Writing, and to receive and provide for such Apprentices, in like Manner, and under the like Penalties, as they are obliged by the said Laws to receive and provide for Apprentices; and that the said Directors and acting Guardians shall, and they are hereby required to provide necessary Clothing for every such Apprentice, upon his or her being bound as aforesaid.

The Production of the Indenture Evidence.

III. And it is hereby further enacted, That the Production of any such Writing or Indenture, under the Seal of the said Corporation, shall be sufficient Proof of the due Execution thereof, in any Court of Justice whatsoever, without calling any Witnesses to prove the sealing or Execution thereof.

Assignments void, unless made with the Consent of a Majority of the Guardians.

IV. And be it further enacted, That no Assignment shall be made of any Indentures or Apprentices so to be bound as aforesaid, or any of them, without the Consent of the major Part of the Directors or acting Guardians for the Time being, present at their General Annual Meeting, or at One of their General Quarterly Meetings; and that if any such Assignment shall be made without such Consent, the same shall be null and void to all Intents and Purposes.

Remedy in Case of Misconduct in Master or Apprentice.

V. And be it further enacted, That in case any of the poor Children, bound Apprentice as aforesaid, shall be ill-treated by their Masters or Mistresses, any Justice of the Peace, upon Complaint thereof made to him, may discharge such Child from his or her Apprenticeship, and may, if he see Cause, order and direct the Master or Mistress of such Child to pay such Sum of Money to the Treasurer of the said Corporation as he shall think proper, not exceeding Ten Pounds; or in case it shall appear to such Justice that any Apprentice shall have misbehaved himself or herself, such Justice shall or may cause such Apprentice to be punished, in such Manner as other Apprentices are by the Laws now in being liable to be punished in case of Misbehaviour.

Guardians empowered to hire out the Poor to be Servants, and to punish them for Misconduct.

VI. And be it further enacted, That the said Directors or acting Guardians, or the major Part of them, present at any General Annual Meeting, or General Quarterly Meeting, or at any Weekly Meeting, to be held in pursuance of this Act, shall and may, and they are hereby empowered, either before or after any Child or Children maintained in the said Poor House, shall have attained the Age of Thirteen Years, to hire out any of such poor Child or Children, to any Person or Persons whomsoever, to be a Servant or Servants in Husbandry, Housewifery, or otherwise, for One Year, at the least, for the Benefit of such Child or Children; and also, before or after such Age, to hire out any such poor Child or Children; and also any of the other poor Persons maintained in the said Poor House, to be employed in Hay or Harvest Work, or in any Work suitable to their Strength or Ability, for such Time, and at such Wages, as the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians, present at any General, Annual, Quarterly, or Weekly Meeting, and the Person or Persons so hiring such Poor, shall agree and determine (the said Directors and acting Guardians taking care that such poor Persons are properly maintained, lodged, and provided for, during the Term of their being so hired); and the said poor Children, or Persons so hired out, shall do and perform the Work and Labour stipulated and agreed to be done, to the best of their Power, and, after such Work shall be compleated and finished, shall without Delay return with their working Implements (if any), and the Apparel wherewith he, she, or they went out to work, (Allowance being made for reasonable Wear of such Apparel), to the said House of Industry, or in Default thereof shall and may be apprehended, by Warrant under the Hand

and Seal of any Justice of the Peace, in any County, Borough, or Place whatsoever, and conveyed back to the said Poor House, to be employed and provided for as aforesaid; and on every such Person being apprehended and brought back, the said Directors or acting Guardians, or the major Part of them present at any Annual, Quarterly, or Weekly Meeting, may, and they are hereby impowered, to inflict such reasonable Punishment on the Person so apprehended as they shall think fit; and that in all Cases whatsoever, where any of the Poor under the Care and Management of the said Directors or acting Guardians shall not, from Time to Time, work and labour, and obey and perform the Rules and Ordinances of the said Corporation, then the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them present at any Annual, Quarterly, or Weekly Meeting, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized to order any such poor Person or Persons, so misbehaving, to be punished in like Manner as poor Persons maintained in the said House, who shall be guilty of prophane Cursing or Swearing, or of any lewd, immoral, indecent, or disorderly Behaviour are, by the said Act of the Fourth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, directed or allowed to be punished; and if any Dispute, Controversy, or Difference shall arise between the said Directors and acting Guardians, or any poor Person so let out to Hire, and the Person or Persons so hiring any such poor Person, touching the Payment of his, her, or their Wages, or otherwise, relating to such Contract or Agreement, or the Work or Labour to be done or performed in pursuance thereof, any Justice of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk, upon Application to him for that Purpose, shall, and he is hereby impowered to settle such Dispute, and give such Redress as Justices of the Peace are now impowered to do by Law, between Masters and Servants in Husbandry.

Differences between the Guardians and Persons hiring the Poor, to be settled by a Justice.

VII. And be it further enacted, That if the Parents, Relations, or Friends of any such poor Person or Persons, or Child or Children maintained by the said Corporation, shall desire to provide for any such poor Person or Persons, or any Child or Children, and shall satisfy the said Directors and acting Guardians of their Ability so to do, the said Directors and acting Guardians shall and may, and they are hereby required at any Weekly or other Meeting, upon Application made to them, and such Satisfaction given as aforesaid, to deliver up and restore any such poor Child or Children, or other poor Person or Persons to his, her, or their Parents, Relations,

Power to discharge Children or poor Persons from the House.

tions, or Friends, so applying and desiring to provide for them; or if it shall appear to the said Directors and acting Guardians at any such Meeting, that any of the said poor Persons can maintain themselves, and such poor Persons shall at any such Meeting desire to be discharged from the said House, the said Directors and acting Guardians shall, upon such Request, discharge such poor Persons from the said House; any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Idle and disorderly Poor, and Poor deserting their Families, &c. to be punished, &c.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them, shall and may, and they are hereby impowered to detain and keep all idle and disorderly Persons, and all such others as shall receive Support from the said Directors and Guardians, who have deserted, neglected, or refused to maintain, or threatened to leave his, her, or their Family or Families, and to set each of them to work at the said Poor House, or House of Industry, during such Time, and until each of such Persons, by his or her Work or Labour there, shall have got, earned, and raised so much Money over and above his or her Maintenance, as shall be sufficient to repay and reimburse the said Corporation all Charges and Expences which may have been sustained in maintaining and providing for every such idle and disorderly Person, and his or her Family respectively; and in case any such idle or disorderly Person shall not earn so much Money as shall be sufficient to reimburse and repay the said Corporation such Charges and Expences, then and so often the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them, at any Annual, Quarterly, or Weekly Meeting, shall and may, and they are hereby impowered to put such idle and disorderly Person into their Place of Correction, and to detain and keep him or her to such hard Labour as he or she shall be judged able to undergo, for such Time, not exceeding Thirty Days, as the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them, at such Meeting shall think fit, and may, if they think necessary, during such Time, cause him or her to be punished by moderate Correction, Abatement in Diet, or Distinction of Dress, at their Discretion.

IX. And whereas, by the said Act of the Fourth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, it is enacted, That the Annual Meeting for filling up Vacancies, and for auditing the Treasurer's Accounts, shall be held on the Friday in Easter Week, in every Year: And whereas it would

would be more convenient if the Annual Meetings were held on a fixed Day, be it therefore enacted, That such Annual Meeting shall for ever hereafter be held on the First Thursday after the Fifth Day of April in every Year, at such Place and Hour as the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them, shall direct or appoint, and at such Meeting so holden every Matter and Thing shall be done and performed, which by the said Act is required to be done on the Friday in Easter Week, which shall no longer be the Day for such Meeting. Annual Meetings appointed.

X. And it is also hereby further enacted, That there shall also be holden Three General Quarterly Meetings of the said Directors and acting Guardians on the First Friday after the Fifth Day of July, the First Friday after the Tenth Day of October, and the First Friday after the Fifth Day of January, in every Year. Appointment of Quarterly Meetings.

XI. And be it further enacted, That in future, when and as often as any Director shall die, disqualify himself, or by Writing under his Hand resign his Office, or refuse to act as a Director, then the surviving or remaining Directors shall, at the next Quarterly or Annual Meeting, proceed to elect another fit Person, qualified as hereinafter mentioned, to be a Director in the Room of any such Director so dying, disqualifying himself, resigning, or refusing to act. Vacancies of the Directors by Death, &c. to be filled up.

XII. Provided always, That no Person shall be chosen a Director, or capable of acting as such, unless at the Time of his being chosen he shall be seised in his own Right, or in Right of his Wife, of Lands or Tenements within the said Hundred, rated at the Value of Fifty Pounds per Annum, or shall be a Rector, or Vicar, or Perpetual Curate, for the Time being, of some Rectory, Vicarage, Perpetual Curacy, Donative, or other Benefice therein, or is or shall be named in the Commission of the Peace for the County of Suffolk, and residing within the said Hundred; and that every Director shall, at the First Meeting at which he shall act, deliver, or cause to be delivered to the Chairman of the Meeting, an Account in Writing of his Qualification, and in what Parish or Place the same shall be situate; and if any Person shall act as a Director, not being duly qualified as aforesaid, or having disqualified himself shall neglect to give Notice thereof to the Clerk of the Corporation, within One Month after such Disqualification, every such Person shall, upon Suspicion thereof, be summoned by Writing under the Hands of Three or more Directors, to appear at the next General Quarterly or Annual Meeting Qualification of Directors.

ing of the said Directors and acting Guardians; and if any such Person shall neglect or refuse to appear at such Meeting, by himself or Agent, or shall not then and thereupon Oath (which Oath any Two Directors are empowered to administer) prove his Qualification to the Satisfaction of the Majority of the Directors and acting Guardians then present, every such Person so offending shall forfeit and pay to the Treasurer of the Corporation the Sum of Twenty Pounds, and be struck off the List of Directors.

Acting Guardians to be chosen at the Annual Meeting.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That the acting Guardians shall be chosen at the said Annual Meeting, on the First Thursday after the Fifth Day of April in every Year, by the Directors and acting Guardians, in such Manner as is prescribed in the said Act of the Fourth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty.

Number of acting Guardians to be reduced to 24.

XIV. And whereas it is found expedient, that the Number of acting Guardians should be reduced, be it therefore further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the present Directors and acting Guardians shall and may, and they are hereby impowered to assemble and meet at the Angel Inn in Halesworth, in the County of Suffolk, on the Second Friday after the passing of this Act, and then and there proceed by a Majority of Voices, in such Manner as is prescribed by the said Act of the Fourth Year of his present Majesty, to elect Twenty-four Persons only out of the Body of Guardians, to be acting Guardians of the Poor, until other acting Guardians shall be chosen in their Stead; and at the Annual Meeting to be holden on the First Thursday after the Fifth Day of April in every Year, the Directors and acting Guardians then present, shall in like Manner choose Twenty-four of the Guardians to be acting Guardians for the following Year; Twelve of which said new elected Guardians shall not have been acting Guardians the preceding Year.

Committees of Directors and acting Guardians appointed for each Quarter of a Year.

XV. And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall at such First Meeting, and also for the future, at such Annual Meeting to be held by them as aforesaid, appoint Twelve Directors and acting Guardians together (whereof Six shall be Directors) for each Quarter of the succeeding Year, instead of Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians directed by the said Act of the Fourth Year of his present Majesty's Reign; and that the said Twelve Directors and acting Guardians so to be from Time to Time appointed for each and every Quarter of the Year, may divide themselves into Committees of Four to act for each Month in each Quarter, to meet at the Poor-house every Monday

day Morning, in like Manner as the said Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians were, by the said Act of the Fourth Year of His present Majesty, authorized and empowered to divide themselves into Committees of Five for each Month; and that such Directors and acting Guardians shall be subject and liable to the same Penalties and Forfeitures for Nonattendance at any of such Weekly Meetings, as the said Directors and acting Guardians were subject or liable to by virtue of the said Act, which shall be recoverable in like Manner.

Power to alter the Days of Meetings, and call Special Meetings.

XVI. Provided always, and it is hereby declared, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, or Two Thirds in Number of them, at any of their Annual or Quarterly Meetings, to alter the Day of the Week, and Place of the future Quarterly or Weekly Meetings, and appoint any other Days and Places for those Purposes, so as that in case of such Alteration, Notice thereof be given within Fourteen Days afterwards in the Ipswich Journal, or in some other Newspaper published or circulated in the said County of Suffolk; and also, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any of their Weekly Meetings, to call a Special Meeting of the Directors and acting Guardians, to be held at Halesworth in the said Hundred, and in case such Special Meeting shall be called, Two Weeks Notice of the Time and Place of such Meeting shall be given in any such Newspaper as aforesaid.

Number of Directors and Acting Guardians necessary at Meetings.

XVII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Act, Order, or Proceeding, of any Annual, Quarterly, Weekly, or Special Meeting of the said Directors and acting Guardians, shall be valid, unless Seven Directors and acting Guardians be present at such Annual, Quarterly, or Special Meeting, and Three Directors and acting Guardians at such Weekly Meeting; and that all Questions shall be determined by Ballot, and where the Votes shall be equal, the Chairman of the Meeting shall have the casting Vote.

Officers removeable, and to be allowed Salaries, and to account, upon Oath.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That the Treasurer, Clerk, or any other Officer or Person employed by the said Corporation, shall and may be removed from his or their respective Offices or Employments, and another Treasurer, Clerk, or other Officer, chosen in his or their Place and Stead, at the Will and Pleasure of the Majority of the said Directors and acting Guardians, assembled at any Annual or Quarterly Meeting; and the said Directors and acting Guardians are hereby authorized and required to take such Security from such Treasurer,

Treasurer, Clerk, or other Officer, for the due Execution of his Office, and to allow and pay him and them such Salaries out of the Funds of the said Corporation as shall be thought fit and proper, and every such Treasurer, Clerk, or other Person, who shall be employed in the Receipt or Expenditure of any of the Money which shall be collected or raised by virtue of this Act, or of the said Act of the Fourth Year of his present Majesty, shall, as often as required by the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them, render and give a true and perfect Account in Writing, under their respective Hands, of all Money which they shall have received in their respective Offices, and how and in what Manner, and to what Uses the same hath been paid and applied, and shall produce proper Vouchers for such Payments, and shall verify such Accounts upon Oath, if thereunto required by the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them (which Oath any Two or more of the said Directors are hereby empowered to administer); and in case any Money so received by any such Officer or Officers shall remain in his or their Hands, the same shall be paid to the said Directors and acting Guardians, or any Seven or more of them, or to such Person as they shall, by Writing under their Hands, authorize and empower to receive the same; and in case any such Officer or Officers shall refuse or neglect to give in such Account, and make such Payment as aforesaid, or shall, for the Space of Fourteen Days after being thereunto required by the said Directors and acting Guardians, or any Seven or more of them, refuse or neglect to render and give up to them, or to such Person as they shall direct, all Books, Papers, Writings, Matters and Things in their Hands, Custody, or Power, relating to their respective Offices, it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace for the County or Borough where such Officer or Officers so making Default shall dwell, to make Enquiry concerning such Default in a summary Way, as well by the Confession of the Party himself, as by the Testimony of any credible Witness upon Oath (which Oath the said Justice is hereby empowered and required to administer without Fee or Reward); and if any such Officer shall be convicted of any of the Offences aforesaid, such Justice shall, upon such Conviction, commit the Party to the Common Gaol of the County or Borough where such Officer shall be or reside, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he shall have made a true and perfect Account and Payment as aforesaid, or until he

shall have compounded and agreed with the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them, and have paid such Composition Money (which Composition the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them, are hereby authorized and empowered to make and receive), and shall have also rendered and given up to the said Directors and acting Guardians, or to such Person as they shall direct, all such Books, Papers, Writings, Matters, and Things as aforesaid.

Directors and acting Guardians incapable of being chosen into any Office.

XIX. Provided always, That no Director or acting Guardian shall be chosen into any Place or Office under the said Directors and acting Guardians, or have any Concern or Share in any Contracts directly or indirectly, for supplying the Corporation with Goods or Articles of any Kind soever, under the Penalty of Fifty Pounds.

Power to vary the Assessments.

XX. And whereas, it is expedient to authorize the said Directors and acting Guardians to vary the Rates and Assessments directed to be raised by the said Act of the Fourth Year of his present Majesty, from Time to Time, as they shall see Occasion, for the Benefit of the Inhabitants within the said Hundred, be it therefore further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them, present at any of the Annual or Quarterly Meetings by this Act appointed to be held, and they are hereby impowered, from Time to Time, as often as they shall see Occasion, to reduce the Rates or Assessments granted or authorised to be made or raised in and by the said recited Act, in such Proportions as they shall think necessary or proper; and all such Rates or Assessments which already have been, or may be so reduced, or lessened, shall and may, from Time to Time, be raised again; and the said Rates or Assessments so reduced or raised again, shall and may be collected and recovered by such Ways and Means, and in such Manner as the Rates and Assessments authorized to be made by virtue of the said recited Act can or may be collected and recovered by virtue of the said Act, or of this present Act: Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall extend to authorize the said Directors and acting Guardians to raise the Rates or Assessments higher than they are authorized to do by virtue of the said recited Act.

Assessments may be allowed by Two Justices.

XXI. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the passing of this Act, all Assessments made by any Quarterly or Annual Meeting, by virtue of the Power in that Behalf contained in the said Act of the Fourth

Year of his present Majesty, and which are thereby required to be allowed by the Justices assembled at the Quarter Sessions, at Beccles, in the said County of Suffolk; and also all Assessments by this present Act allowed to be made by the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any such Meetings as aforesaid, shall and may be allowed and signed by any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County; and after such Allowance the same shall be as valid and effectual, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, as if the same were allowed by the Justices in Sessions, in the Manner prescribed by the said Act.

Penalty on Officers refusing or neglecting to raise the Assessment, &c.

XXII. And whereas, by the said Act of the Fourth Year of his present Majesty, a Penalty of Five Pounds is inflicted upon any Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Constable, or other Officer, who shall refuse or neglect to raise and levy the Sum assessed upon his respective Parish, Hamlet, or Place, or to pay the same at the Time and Place appointed, or to obey the Warrants or reasonable Orders of the Directors or acting Guardians relative to the Execution of the said Act, which said Penalty is found inadequate to the Purposes intended; for Remedy whereof, and also for more effectually securing the Payment of the said Sums so assessed, it is hereby further enacted, That, from and after the passing of this Act, every Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Constable, or other Officer so offending, shall forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Fifty Pounds, to be levied in such Manner, and by such Ways and Means, and with such Power of Appeal, as are provided in the said recited Act, concerning the Penalty of Five Pounds thereby imposed.

Parishioners to be answerable for any Deficiency of Assessments.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That the Parishioners and Inhabitants of the respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, within the said Hundred of Blything, shall be answerable for such Sums of Money so to be raised on or by them respectively, and not paid in and by their said respective Churchwardens and Overseers, or any of them, and shall be compellable to pay the same upon a Re-assessment, which in that Case is hereby directed to be made by the said Churchwardens and Overseers, or their Successors, and such Rates or Assessments, and also such Re-assessments for the Sums so fixed and charged, shall be assessed upon, levied and recovered of and from such Persons, and in such and the like Manner, as Money assessed for the Relief of the Poor is by the Laws now in being to be assessed, levied, and recovered, and with the same Power of Appeal for Persons aggrieved; but no such

such Appeal shall extend to protract, suspend, or delay the Payment of any such Sum or Sums of Money by the said Directors and acting Guardians so required to be raised and paid; but such Money shall be raised and paid at the respective Times specified in the Warrant of the said Directors and acting Guardians, notwithstanding any such Appeal is pending; and in case the Court, before whom such Appeal shall be heard, shall determine that any Parish, Hamlet, Place, or Person appealing, is aggrieved with respect to the Quota to be raised and paid by such Parish, Hamlet, Place, or Person, then the Treasurer to the said Corporation shall, and he is hereby impowered, upon receiving a written Copy of such Determination, authenticated by the Clerk of the Peace for the said County, to refund to such respective Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor, or Person or Persons so appealing, such Sum of Money as the Court shall determine, to exceed the just Proportion that such Parish, Hamlet, Place, or Person ought to pay.

Justices to direct their Orders for Relief of Paupers, &c.

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases where any Justice or Justices of the Peace shall make any Order for Relief of any Pauper, it shall be lawful for such Justice or Justices to direct all such Orders to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish, Hamlet, or Place in which such Pauper shall reside, for the Purpose of facilitating the due Execution of such Order; and the said Directors and acting Guardians are hereby required to reimburse to the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, the Money paid in pursuance of such Orders; and in case any Churchwarden or Overseer shall disobey any such Order, or shall refuse to assist in executing any Warrant of any such Justice or Justices, relating to Bastardy, or shall, upon any Order of Filiation and Maintenance, refuse to demand or receive of any putative Father the Sum charged upon him by such Justice or Justices, to be allowed and paid by him to the Mother of any illegitimate Child or Children, or to the Directors and acting Guardians, towards the Maintenance of such Child or Children, or knowing the putative Father of any such Child or Children absconding or disobeying any Order of Filiation or Maintenance as aforesaid, shall not forthwith give Notice thereof to the Governor of the said Poor-house, or to the said Directors and acting Guardians, at some of their Weekly or other Meetings, every such Churchwarden and Overseer, offending in any of the Cases aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay, for every such Offence, any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds,

Penalty on Officers disobeying such Orders, &c.

Pounds, nor less than Twenty Shillings, whereof One Moiety shall go to any Person chargeable to the said Rates, who shall give Information thereof to the Directors and acting Guardians, at any of their Meetings: Provided always, That every Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor, who shall apprehend and bring back any such putative Father so absconding, shall be paid or allowed, by the said Directors and acting Guardians, such Sum of Money as the major Part of them shall think reasonable, for the Trouble and Expences of such Churchwarden and Overseer in taking and bringing back such putative Father.

To be reimbursed reasonable Expences.

Books to be produced on Notice.

XXV. And be it further enacted, That all and every the Books, Papers, and Accounts whatsoever, of or belonging to the said Corporation, shall be produced at any of the Annual or Quarterly Meetings of the said Directors and acting Guardians, on the reasonable Request, and Fourteen Days previous Notice, of any Person rated to, or paying in respect of, any Estate in the said Hundred of Blything, to the Relief of the Poor, for his or her Perusal or Inspection; and the Person making such Inspection shall then and there be at Liberty to protest against and declare his Objections to, or Observations upon, any particular Charges, Matters, or Proceedings therein contained; and the same shall be then heard and taken into Consideration by such Meeting; and in case the same cannot then be finally settled and determined to the Satisfaction of the Person or Persons making such Objections, then the same shall be adjourned over to the next following Meeting of the said Directors, to be then finally heard and determined.

Competency of Witnesses.

XXVI. And be it further enacted, That any Inhabitant of the said Hundred of Blything, although he or she shall be rated, or be liable to the Payment of any Rate or Assessment, for the Relief of the Poor within the said Hundred, shall be, and be deemed a competent Witness upon any Trial, Appeal, Hearing, or otherwise, in, about, touching or concerning the Execution of this Act, or any Matter or Thing relating thereto; and also, that any Director or acting Guardian, who is a Justice of the Peace, may act as such in the Execution of this Act, notwithstanding his being a Director, or acting Guardian, except when he shall be personally interested.

Directors and Guardians may act as Justices.

Guardians may grant Certificates to Persons removing to any Parish.

XXVII. And whereas, by the said Act of the Fourth Year of his present Majesty, no Power is given to the Directors and acting Guardians to grant Certificates to Persons removing from One Parish, Hamlet, or Place to another within the said Hundred of Blything; be it

therefore further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any Quarterly or Annual Meeting, to grant Certificates, under the common Seal of the said Corporation, to any Person whose legal Settlement shall be in any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundred of Blything, and who shall be willing to remove or who shall have removed to any other Parish, Hamlet, or Place, as well within as out of the said Hundred; and every such Certificate, being sealed with the Corporation Seal, attested by their Clerk for the Time being, and signed by the Justices of the Peace, as Certificates are now by Law directed to be, shall be good and valid to all Intents and Purposes; and no Certificate as aforesaid shall henceforth be granted by the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, Hamlet, or Place in the said Hundred; any Law or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding; and all Certificates which shall hereafter be delivered to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundred, by Persons coming to reside therein, shall, within Fourteen Days after the Receipt thereof by such Officers, be delivered to the Clerk to the said Directors and acting Guardians, and the same shall be kept by them, so that Recourse may be had thereto when necessary.

Churchwardens or Overseers not to grant any Certificates.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted, That if any Person shall come to reside or inhabit within any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundred, in any Tenement under the yearly Rent of Ten Pounds, without having a legal Settlement in such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, and without producing a Certificate, owning him, her, or them, to be settled in some other Parish or Place, it shall be lawful, upon Complaint made by the Churchwardens or Overseers of any such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, to any Justice of the Peace, within Forty Days after such Person coming so to settle in any Tenement under the Value of Ten Pounds, for any Two Justices of the Peace of the Division in which the said Hundred is situated, by their Warrant, to remove and convey such Person to the Parish where he was last legally settled, although the same shall be within the said Hundred, unless he give sufficient Security (to be allowed of by the said Justices) for the Discharge of the said Parish into which he shall so come to settle or reside; and if such Person or Persons shall refuse to go to or shall not remain in such Parish where he ought to be settled, but shall return of his, her, or their own Accord, to the

Persons coming to reside in any Parish in the Hundred, without Certificate, to be removed.

Parish whence he, she, or they shall have been so removed by Order of Two Justices as aforesaid, without bringing a Certificate from the Parish or Place whereunto he, she, or they shall belong, every such Person or Persons shall be deemed idle and disorderly Persons, and shall be liable and subject to such Punishments as Persons returning in Contempt of any Orders of Removal are, by the Laws now in being, liable and subject to, and shall be dealt with, and proceeded against in like Manner; any Thing in the said Act of the Fourth Year of his present Majesty, or in this present Act contained, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Penalty on Officers suffering poor Persons to reside in their Parishes without producing Certificates, &c.

XXIX. And be it further enacted, That if the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, or Constables of any Parish, Hamlet or Place within the said Hundred, shall suffer any Person to reside or inhabit within any such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, whose legal Settlement is, or is not, in the said Hundred of Blything, without his or her producing and delivering to them a Certificate from the Place of his or her legal Settlement, and shall neglect to give Notice thereof to the said Directors and acting Guardians, at some of their annual, quarterly, or weekly Meetings, within Twenty-one Days after they shall know that such Person shall have come to reside or inhabit in such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, without producing or delivering such Certificate as aforesaid, or shall know or suspect any single Woman within any such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, to have been delivered of a Child or Children, and shall neglect to give Notice thereof to the said Directors and acting Guardians at some such Meeting within the Time aforesaid, and take their Directions thereon; every such Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, or Constable, shall forfeit and pay for every such Neglect the Sum of Forty Shillings to any Person chargeable to the Rates to be made for the Relief of the Poor within the said Hundred, who shall give Information thereof to the said Directors and acting Guardians within Three Calendar Months after such Neglect shall have happened; and if through such Neglect any such Person shall become chargeable to such Parish, Hamlet or Place, or the said Hundred, then the whole Charge and Expence shall be defrayed by the Inhabitants of such Parish, Hamlet or Place, without any Assistance from the said Directors and acting Guardians; any Thing in the said recited Act, or in this Act, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Power continued to Directors to borrow Money.

XXX. And whereas, it is expedient to continue the Power vested in the said Directors and acting Guardians

to

to borrow such Sum or Sums of Money, as may hereafter be wanted for the Use of the said Corporation, be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any annual or quarterly Meeting to be held in pursuance of this present Act, and they are hereby authorized and impowered to borrow and take up at Interest, such Sum or Sums of Money as they shall think necessary, not exceeding the Sum of Three thousand Pounds, and to assign over, and mortgage the Rates directed to be made as aforesaid, or any Part thereof, to the Person or Persons who shall advance and lend such Money, or his, her, or their Trustee or Trustees, as a Security for the Money so to be borrowed, together with Interest for the same; which Assignment or Mortgage shall be under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, in the Words or to the Effect following:

Form of Assignment.

BY virtue of an Act of Parliament, made in the Thirty-third Year of the Reign of King *George* the Third, intituled, [*insert the Title of the Act*], we, the Guardians of the Poor of the Hundred of *Blything*, in the County of *Suffolk*, in Consideration of the Sum of now advanced and paid to the Treasurer appointed by virtue of the said Act, by *A. B.* do hereby assign unto the said *A. B.* his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, being the Proportion of Rates to be made by virtue of the said Act, which the said Sum of bears to the whole Money secured or to be advanced on the Credit of the said Rates, to hold unto the said *A. B.* his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, from this Day of until the said Sum of with Interest for the same after the Rate of *per Centum per Annum*, shall be paid and satisfied. In Witness whereof we have hereunto affixed our Common Seal, this Day of in the Year of our Lord

Assignments may be transferred.

And every such Assignment or Mortgage shall be good, valid, and effectual in the Law; and it shall be lawful for Persons intitled to any of the Securities for the Money to be borrowed by virtue of this Act, either by Indorsement on such Security, or by separate Instrument, under their Hands and Seals, to transfer such Securities to any Person or Persons; which Transfers may be in the Words, or to the Effect following:

Form of Transfer.

I *A. B.* do hereby transfer the within Mortgage *(if by Indorsement)*, *or* a certain Mortgage *(if by a separate Instrument)*, made to *C. D.* his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, bearing Date the Day of of the Rates arising by virtue of an Act of Parliament, made in the Thirty-third Year of the Reign of King *George* the Third, intituled, *(insert the Title of the Act)*, and all my Right and Title to the Money thereby secured, unto *E. F.* his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns. Dated this Day of in the Year of our Lord

And Copies of all such Mortgages, and Extracts or Memorials of such Transfers, shall be entered into a Book by the Clerk to the said Directors and acting Guardians, which Extracts or Memorials shall specify and contain the Dates, Names of the Parties, and the Sums of Money secured by the Mortgages so transferred, and the said Clerk shall subscribe his Name to every such Copy and other Entry, and for the Entry of every such Extract or Memorial he shall be paid by the Person to whom any such Transfer shall be made, the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence, and no more; and all Persons interested shall, at all seasonable Times, have free Access to the said Book, and the Liberty to inspect the same, without Fee or Reward; and it shall not be in the Power of the Person or Persons who shall have made any such Transfer, to make void, release, or discharge the same, or any Money due, or to become due, on the Security so transferred; and all Persons to whom any such Mortgage shall be made, or who shall be intitled to the Money so secured, shall be Creditors upon the said Rates, in equal Degree one with another, and no Preference shall be given to such Creditors in respect to the Priority of advancing their Money, or the Dates of their Securities.

Mode of Recovery and Application of Penalties and Forfeitures.

XXXI. And be it further enacted, That all pecuniary Penalties imposed by this Act, or the said Act of the Fourth Year of his present Majesty, and not otherwise directed to be recovered, shall and may be severally levied and recovered by Distress and Sale of Goods and Chattels of the Person or Persons liable to pay the same, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of any Two Justices of the Peace, together with the Costs and Charges of such Distress and Sale, such Costs and Charges to be ascertained by such Justices respectively: and in case no sufficient Distress shall be found, then such Person or

Persons

Persons shall and may, by like Warrant, be apprehended, and be committed to the Common Gaol, or House of Correction, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, for such Time as such Justice or Justices respectively shall direct, not exceeding Two Calendar Months, unless he, she, or they shall sooner pay such Penalties or Forfeitures, and all Charges attending the same, such Charges to be ascertained by such Justices as aforesaid, and such of the aforesaid Penalties and Forfeitures as are not hereby directed to be otherwise applied, shall be paid to the Treasurer to the said Corporation, and be applied for the Purposes thereof.

Power of Appeal to any Person aggrieved.

XXXII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if any Person shall think himself or herself aggrieved by any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, and for which no particular Method of Relief is hereby appointed, such Person may appeal to the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden for the Division of Beccles, in the said County, within Four Calendar Months next after the Cause shall have arisen, such Appellant first giving Eight Days Notice in Writing of his or her Intention to bring such Appeal, and of the Matter thereof, to the Clerk or Treasurer to the said Corporation, or such other Person or Persons as shall occasion the Matter appealed against, and within Four Days after such Notice, entering into a Recognizance before some Justice of the Peace for the same County, with Two sufficient Sureties, conditioned to try such Appeal, and abide the Order of, and pay the Costs which shall be awarded by such Quarter Sessions; and the Court, upon due Proof of such Notice and Recognizance, shall hear and finally determine the Matter of every such Appeal in a summary Way, and make such Order, and award such Costs to the Party appealing, or appealed against, as such Court shall think proper; and such Determination shall be final, binding, and conclusive to all Intents and Purposes.

Proceedings not to be quashed for Want of Form, or removeable.

XXXIII. And be it further enacted, That no Summons, Order, Assessment, Conviction, Warrant, Distress, or other Proceedings under this Act, shall be quashed, vacated, or made or deemed void for Want of Form only, or be removed or removeable into any of His Majesty's Courts at Westminster; nor in case of any Irregularity in such Distress, or any Sale thereon, or Proceedings therein, shall any of the Parties concerned therein be deemed a Trespasser or Trespassers ab initio; but the Person or Persons aggrieved thereby, shall and may recover Satisfaction for the special Damage only in an

an Action upon the Case, if no sufficient Tender of Amends shall have been made him, her, or them, before such Action brought, and not otherwise; and every Conviction under this Act shall be drawn in the following Form, or to the like Effect; (that is to say),

Form of Conviction.

BE it remembered, That on the Day of , *A. B.* of is convicted before us *J. K.* and *L. M.* Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of *Suffolk*, [*here specify the Offence, and the Time and Place where the same shall be committed, as the Case shall be*].

Given under our Hands and Seals, the Day and Year first above written.

Expences of the Act to be paid.

Publick Act.

XXXIV. And be it further enacted, That all the Charges and Expences incident to, and attending the obtaining and passing of this Act, shall be paid by the Treasurer out of the Funds of the said Corporation; and that this Act shall be deemed, adjudged and taken to be a Publick Act, and be judicially taken Notice of as such, by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons, without being specially pleaded.

FINIS.