ANNO TRICESIMO SEXTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XXIII.

An Act to amend ſo much of an Act, made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Firſt, intituled, *An Act for amending the Laws relating to the Settlement, Employment, and Relief of the Poor*, as prevents the diſtributing occaſional Relief to Poor Perſons in their own Houſes, under certain Circumſtances and in certain Caſes. [24th *December* 1795.]

WHEREAS by an Act paſſed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of His late Majeſty King *George* the Firſt, intituled, *An Act for amending the Laws relating to the Settlement, Employment, and Relief of the Poor*, it is (among other Things) enacted, that it ſhall and may be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor, in any Pariſh, Town, Townſhip, or Place, with the Conſent of the major Part of the Pariſhioners or Inhabitants thereof in Veſtry or other Pariſh or publick Meeting for that Purpoſe aſſembled, or of ſo many of them as ſhall be ſo aſſembled, upon uſual Notice thereof firſt given, to purchaſe

Preamble.

9 *Geo.* I, Cap. 7.

or hire any Houſe or Houſes in the ſame Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, and to contract with any Perſon or Perſons for the lodging, keeping, maintaining, and employing, any or all ſuch Poor, in their reſpective Pariſhes, Townſhips, or Places, as ſhall deſire to receive Relief or Collection from the ſame Pariſh, and there to keep, maintain, and employ, all ſuch Perſons, and take the Benefit of the Work, Labour, and Service, of any ſuch Poor Perſon or Perſons, who ſhall be kept and maintained in any ſuch Houſe or Houſes, for the Maintenance and Relief of ſuch Poor Perſon or Perſons who ſhall be there kept and maintained; and in caſe any Poor Perſon or Perſons of any Pariſh, Town, Townſhip, or Place, when ſuch Houſe or Houſes ſhall be ſo purchaſed or hired, ſhall refuſe to be lodged, kept, or maintained, in ſuch Houſe or Houſes, ſuch Poor Perſon or Perſons ſo refuſing ſhall be put out of the Book or Books where the Names of the Perſons who ought to receive Collection in the ſaid Pariſh, Town, Townſhip, or Place, are to be regiſtered, and ſhall not be entitled to aſk or receive Collection or Relief from the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the ſame Pariſh, Town, or Townſhip: And whereas the ſaid Proviſion contained in the Act above mentioned has been found to have been and to be inconvenient and oppreſſive, inaſmuch as it often prevents an induſtrious Poor Perſon from receiving ſuch occaſional Relief as is beſt ſuited to the peculiar Caſe of ſuch Poor Perſon, and inaſmuch as in certain Caſes it holds out Conditions of Relief injurious to the Comfort and domeſtic Situation and Happineſs of ſuch Poor Perſons: Be it therefore enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the 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 paſſing of this Act, it ſhall and may be lawful for the Overſeer or Overſeers of any Pariſh, Town, Townſhip, or Place, with the Approbation of the Pariſhioners, or the Majority of them, in Veſtry or other uſual Place of Meeting aſſembled, or with the Approbation in Writing of any of His Majeſty's Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace uſually acting in and for the reſpective Diſtrict, to diſtribute and pay Collection and Relief to any induſtrious Poor Perſon or Perſons, at his, her, or their Homes, Houſe or Houſes, under certain Circumſtances of temporary Illneſs or Diſtreſs, and in certain Caſes reſpecting ſuch Poor Perſon, or his, her, or their Family, or reſpecting the Situation, Health, or Condition, of any Poor Houſe or Poor Houſes, in any Pariſh, Town, Townſhip, or Place, wherein a Houſe or Houſes ſhall have been or ſhall be ſo hired, built, or purchaſed, and a Contract made with any Perſon or Perſons for lodging, keeping, maintaining, and employing, any or all Poor Perſons who ſhall deſire to receive Collection or Relief, although ſuch Poor Perſon or Perſons ſhall refuſe to be lodged, kept, and maintained, within ſuch Houſe or Houſes; any Thing in the ſaid Act paſſed in the Ninth Year of His Majeſty King *George* the Firſt to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Overſeers, with the Approbation of the Pariſhioners or any Juſtice, may relieve Poor Perſons at their own Homes.

II. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any His Majeſty's Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace for any County, City, Town, or Place, uſually acting in and for the Diſtrict wherein the ſame ſhall be ſituated, at his or their juſt

Juſtices may order Relief to Poor Perſons at their own Homes.

and proper Diſcretion, to direct and order Collection and Relief to any induſtrious Poor Perſon or Perſons, and he, ſhe, or they ſhall be entitled to aſk and to receive ſuch Relief at his, her, or their Homes, Houſe or Houſes, in any Pariſh, Town, Townſhip, or Place, notwithſtanding any Contract ſhall have been or ſhall be made with any Perſon or Perſons for lodging, keeping, maintaining, and employing, any and all Poor Perſons in a Houſe or Houſes for ſuch Purpoſe hired or purchaſed, and the Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Overſeer or Overſeers, for ſuch Pariſh, Town, Townſhip, or Place, are required and directed to obey and perform ſuch Order for Relief given by any Juſtice or Juſtices as aforeſaid.

Cauſe of ordering ſuch Relief to be aſſigned on the Order of the Juſtice, &c.

III. Provided always, That the ſpecial Cauſe, as herein-before mentioned, of ordering and directing Collection or Relief to any Poor Perſon or Perſons, at his, her, or their Homes, Houſe or Houſes, be aſſigned and written on each Order for Relief given and directed by any Juſtice or Juſtices as aforeſaid; and provided always that ſuch Order be given for, and do remain in force for a Time not to exceed One Month from the Date of ſuch Order: Provided alſo, that it ſhall and may be lawful for any Two Juſtices as aforeſaid to make any further Order for the ſame or like Purpoſe, for any further Time not exceeding One Month from the Date of ſuch Order, and ſo on from Time to Time, as the Occaſion ſhall require, ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices firſt adminiſtering an Oath as to the Need and Cauſe of ſuch Relief in each of the above Caſes, and thereon ſummoning the Overſeer or Overſeers of the Poor of the Pariſh, Town, Townſhip, or Place, to be charged with ſuch Relief, to ſhew Cauſe why ſuch Poor Perſon or Perſons ſhould not receive ſuch Relief in Manner as by Law provided in Caſes where no Contract for lodging, keeping, and maintaining the Poor, ſhall as aforeſaid have been made.

Act not to extend to Places where Houſes of Induſtry are provided under 22 *Geo.* III, Cap. 83, or under any ſpecial Act.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend, or be conſtrued, deemed, or taken to extend, to authorize, empower, or enable, any Overſeer or Overſeers, or any Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace as aforeſaid, to direct or order to diſtribute and pay, or to be diſtributed and paid, any Collection or Relief to any Poor Perſon or Perſons, at his, her, or their Homes, Houſe or Houſes, as aforeſaid, in any Pariſh, Town, Townſhip, or Place, in or for which any Houſe of Induſtry, or other Place for the Reception and Proviſion of the Poor thereof, hath been already erected or provided, or ſhall hereafter be erected or provided, by and under the Authority or Directions of an Act, paſſed in the Twenty-ſecond Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor*, or under the Authority or Directions of any ſpecial Act of Parliament or Law already paſſed for ſuch Pariſh, Town, Townſhip, or Place, and now in force for that Purpoſe; but that in every ſuch Caſe all ſuch laſt-mentioned Poor Perſon or Perſons ſhall be provided for and relieved in ſuch and the ſame Manner as before the making and paſſing of this Act.

Publick Act. V. 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 whomſoever, without ſpecially pleading the ſame.

FINIS.