Anno quarto

Georgii III. Regis.

An Act for maintaining, regulating, and employing the Poor within the Parish of *Saint John* at *Hackney*, in the County of *Middlesex*; and for lighting the said Parish, and establishing a regular Nightly Watch therein.



WHEREAS the Parish of Saint John at Hackney, in the County of Middlesex, is very populous, and from its Situation, exposed to frequent Robberies, Burglaries, and other Outrages: And whereas the lighting the said Parish, and establishing a proper Watch, would greatly contribute to remedy the Evils aforesaid: And whereas the Poor of the said Parish are very numerous, and the granting of proper Powers for the better maintaining and regulating the said Poor, and providing a Place for their Reception, will tend greatly to the more effectual Relief and Support of such Poor: And whereas by the Laws now in being, Preamble.

the Inhabitants are not impowered to raise Money for effecting the Purposes aforesaid; May it therefore please your most Excellent 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 by the Authority of the same, That the Vestrymen of the said Parish shall and are hereby authorized and required to meet together in the Vestry Room of the said Parish Church yearly and every Year, on Easter Tuesday; and that they, or the major Part of them, so met, shall then and there make a List in Writing of the Names of Ten or more Persons, being substantial Householders in the said Parish, whom such Vestrymen shall think fitly qualified, to be nominated and appointed Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for One Year from such Appointment; which List shall be fairly entered in the Minute Book of the said Vestry, and true Copies thereof, attested under the Hand of the Vestry Clerk of the said Parish for the time being, shall be by him delivered, with all convenient Speed, to any Two Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, at a Petty Sessions assembled, who shall and they are hereby authorized and required forthwith, upon Receipt thereof, by Writing under their Hands and Seals, to nominate and appoint Two or more Persons, out of the Persons named in such Lists, to be Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the Year ensuing, or until new Overseers shall be nominated and appointed to succeed them, in Manner herein after mentioned; which Persons, being so nominated and appointed, and having Notice thereof, shall from thenceforth, together with the Churchwardens for the time being of the said Parish, be, and be deemed Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish; and the said Overseers, and each of them, shall and are hereby severally required to do, perform, and execute their respective Duties and Offices of Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish accordingly: And in case they, any or either of them, shall refuse or neglect so to do, for the Space of Seven Days next after his and their having had such Notice as aforesaid, then One or more Person or Persons, named in the said List, shall in like Manner, be nominated and appointed, under the Hands and Seals of the said Two Justices of the Peace, or of any other Two Justices for the said County, assembled as aforesaid, to be an Overseer or Overseers of the

Appointing Overseers.

Poor

Poor of the said Parish, in the stead of the Person or Persons who shall so refuse or neglect as aforesaid.

Overseers refusing to act, to forfeit the Sum of 10 *l.*

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Person, nominated and appointed an Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish in Manner aforesaid, and who shall refuse or neglect to take upon himself that Office and Duty within the Space of Seven Days next after he shall have had Notice of his being so nominated and appointed, shall, upon Proof thereof, by the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County, forfeit and pay, for such Refusal or Neglect, the Sum of Ten Pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain, for the Use of the Poor of the said Parish, to be levied by Distress and Sale of his Goods and Chattles, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of any Two Justices of the Peace before whom the Proof of such Refusal or Neglect shall be made as aforesaid, to be directed to the Constables or Headboroughs of the said Parish; which Warrant or Warrants the said Justices are hereby required and impowered to grant: And the said Constables and Headboroughs, or some or One of them, are hereby required respectively to execute the same accordingly, with all convenient Speed, and forthwith to pay over all the Monies from time to time which shall be so forfeited and levied, into the Hands of the Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being, to be appointed in pursuance of this Act.

Appointing Trustees.

And, for the better carrying this Act into Execution; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Vicar and Churchwardens of the said Parish of Saint John at Hackney for the time being, all such Persons who have served, or shall hereafter serve the Offices of Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, and Surveyor of the Highways within the said Parish, or that have fined or shall hereafter fine for the said Three Offices, together with Christopher Rawlinson, Richard Nicholas, Robert Purnell, Lewis Jones, and James Joyner, shall be, and they are hereby nominated and appointed Trustees; and they, or any Nine or more of them, shall meet in the Vestry Room, or some other Place in the said Parish, on the Twenty sixth Day of March, One thousand seven hundred and sixty four, or within Thirty Days after, and then proceed to put this Act in Execution; and shall then, and from time to time afterwards, adjourn themselves, and meet at the same or any other Place within the said Parish, which they the said Trustees, or any Five or more of

First Meeting.

them, shall from time to time think most convenient for putting this Act in Execution: And if at any such Meeting there shall not appear a sufficient Number of Trustees to act and to adjourn to another Day, the Trustee or Trustees then present, or the Clerk to the said Trustees, shall, by causing Notice to be affixed upon the West Door of the Church of the said Parish, at least Three Days before the next Meeting, appoint the Trustees to meet at the Place where the last Meeting was appointed to be held, upon some Day not exceeding Ten Days next after the Day upon which such last Meeting was appointed to have been held; and the said Trustees, at all their Meetings, shall defray their own Expences.

No Persons selling spirituous Liquors to be Trustees.

Provided always, That no Victualler, or Person selling Spirituous or Fermented Liquors by Retale, shall be capable of acting as a Trustee in the Execution of this Act; and that no Person shall be capable of acting as a Trustee in the Execution of this Act, who is not an Houlholder within the said Parish.

Trustees not to act where interested.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person appointed a Trustee for any of the Purposes of this Act, shall have any Share or Interest in any Contract, or be appointed to, or enjoy, any beneficial Employment under or by virtue of this Act, every such Person shall, during his and their Continuance in such Employment, or during the Term of such Contract, be disabled and disqualified from acting as a Trustee.

Appointing a Treasurer.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, shall and may, from time to time, appoint One or more Treasurer or Treasurers, residing within the said Parish, for receiving all the Monies to be raised and collected in pursuance and for the several Purposes of this Act, and of all other Monies whatsoever applicable for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish; and, from time to time, as they shall think necessary, remove such Treasurer or Treasurers, and appoint such other Person or Persons in his and their Stead, as they the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, shall think proper; and such Treasurer or Treasurers is and are hereby directed to keep distinct Accounts of all the Monies by him or them received and paid for the different Purposes of this Act; and to account Once in every Year, or oftener if thereunto required by the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, for all the Monies by him or them received and paid, pursuant to all the Directions of this Act; and to pay all such Monies

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as, upon the Balance of the said Accounts respectively, shall appear to be remaining in his or their Hands, to such Person or Persons as the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, shall, by Writing under their Hands and Seals, authorize to receive the same, to be applied to and for the several Uses and Purposes for which the same were collected, raised, received, or levied; and in Default of rendering and making such Accounts and Payments as aforesaid, such Treasurer or Treasurers shall be liable to such Penalties as Overseers of the Poor in the like Cases are liable to.

Treasurer to give Security.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, shall and they are hereby authorized and required, from time to time, to take sufficient Security from such Treasurer or Treasurers, for his or their faithful accounting for and paying all such Monies as he or they shall receive by virtue of his or their said Office or Offices.

Treasurer to give 20 Days Notice of removing.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Person by virtue of this Act appointed a Treasurer, shall think proper to remove out of the said Parish before the Expiration of his Office, that then he shall and is hereby required, before his removing, to give Twenty Days Notice in Writing of his Intention so to remove, to One of the Churchwardens for the time being of the said Parish, who is hereby required forthwith to summon a Meeting of the said Trustees, by affixing Notice on the West Door of the said Church, expressing the Time and Place for such Meeting, to the end that a Meeting of the said Trustees may be held, pursuant to this Act, for taking the Account or Accounts of such Treasurer so removing, and for directing and causing all the Monies which, upon such Account or Accounts, shall appear to be remaining in his Hands, to be forthwith paid over to such other Person as the said Trustees present at such Meeting, or the major Part of them, shall, by Writing under their Hands, authorize and appoint to receive the same, to be applied for the Uses and Purposes of this Act; and the said Treasurer is hereby accordingly required to make up and render such respective Account or Accounts in such Manner as is herein before directed to the said Trustees present at such last-mentioned Meeting, and to pay over all the Monies then remaining in the Hands of such Treasurer, to such Person as aforesaid; and in case any such Treasurer shall remove out of the said Parish before the Expiration of his Office, without conforming to or performing what is

is hereby required to be performed by him before such Removal as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful, in any such Case, to and for any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County of Middlesex, and they are hereby authorized and required, upon Application to them by any Nine or more of the said Trustees, and upon Proof thereof by the Oath or Oaths of any One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, to commit the Party so offending to the Common Gaol, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he shall have submitted to account, and to pay over the Monies remaining in his Hands as aforesaid, or compounded for the same with the said Trustees, or the major Part of them, assembled at a Meeting to be held for that Purpose; which Composition the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, are hereby impowered to make.

On the Death of Treasurers, Executors to account.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any such Treasurer shall die before the Expiration of his Office, that then his Executors or Administrators shall, within Forty Days next after his Death, make up, and render to the said Trustees, assembled at any Meeting for that Purpose, an Account in Writing of all Monies received and paid by such deceased Treasurer; and also pay, as the major Part of the said Trustees so assembled shall direct, out of the Assets left by the said Treasurer, all Sums of Money remaining due, which such deceased Treasurer shall have received by virtue of his said Office.

Trustees to settle what Money to be raised.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees shall meet together in the Vestry Room or some other Place within the said Parish, on the First Day of May, One thousand seven hundred and sixty four, or within Fourteen Days after, and on the First Day of May, or within Fourteen Days after in every succeeding Year; and they, or the major Part of them as shall be assembled, at such Days and Times respectively, shall then settle and ascertain the several Sums of Money necessary to be raised in the ensuing Year for the Purposes following; that is to say, For the Relief, Maintenance, Lodging, Cloathing, and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish; and for lighting and keeping a Nightly Watch in such Parts of the said Parish as they shall think proper, for the Safety of the Inhabitants thereof.

Trustees may make a Rate.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees shall assemble and meet together within Fourteen Days next after the said several Sums

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of Money shall have been so ascertained as aforesaid; and they, or any Nine of them so assembled, shall and they are hereby required to make and sign Two distinct Rates or Assessments, not exceeding the Amount of the respective Sums so settled and ascertained; that is to say, One Rate or Assessment for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish, to be charged upon all and every Person and Persons who do and shall inhabit, hold, use, occupy, or enjoy any Land, Ground, House, Shop, Warehouse, Coach-house, Stable, Building, Tenement, or Hereditament, within the said Parish, and on every other Person or Persons who by Law is and are chargeable or rateable for and towards the Relief of the Poor within the said Parish; and One other Rate or Assessment for lighting the said Parish, and maintaining a Nightly Watch in the same; which last-mentioned Rate shall be raised by way of Pound Rate, not exceeding in any One Year One Shilling and Three Pence in the Pound, upon and according to the annual or improved Rent or Value of all Houses, Shops, Warehouses, Coach-houses, Stables, and other Buildings, within the said Parish; which said several Rates or Assessments shall be paid Quarterly, and shall be entered in separate Books to be provided for that Purpose by the said Trustees, wherein there shall be Four distinct Columns for the Four Quarters of the Year, and a Fifth Column for the Sum Total of the said Four Quarters.

And whereas there are divers Houses in the said Parish which are let out to several Persons occupying different Apartments therein, and other Houses let ready-furnished to Lodgers, whereby the Payment of the said Rates or Assessments may be evaded; For Remedy whereof, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Person, whether Landlord or Tenant, who shall let his or her House in separate 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 several Sums so rated and assessed. Landlords to pay the Rate.

Provided always, That the Goods and Chattles of each and every Person renting or occupying any separate Apartment in such House, or renting or occupying any ready-furnished House, shall be liable to be distrained and sold for the Payment of the said Rates or Assessments respectively; and that each and every Person who shall pay such Rates or Assessments, or any of them, so charged For levying the Rates.

on his or her respective Landlord or Landlords, or upon whose Goods and Chattles 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, and the Receipt for such Payment shall be a sufficient Discharge to his or her Landlord or Landlords for so much Money as he or she shall have so paid, or which shall have been levied on his or her Goods and Chattles in pursuance of this Act.

Saving to the Landlords.

Provided always, That no such Landlord shall be chargeable with or be liable to pay for any increased Rent reserved or made payable to him for or on account of his paying the said Poors Rates, or other Rates or Charges usually charged upon the Tenant, and deemed Tenants Charges or Taxes.

Persons to pay the Rate in Proportion to the Time of occupying Houses.

And whereas Persons frequently remove without paying the Rates assessed on them, and other Persons do enter and occupy or hold their Houses, Tenements, or Hereditamedts, Part of the Year, by reason whereof great Sums of Money may be annually lost; be it therefore enacted, That where any Person or Persons shall come into, or occupy any House, Tenement, or Hereditament, or other Premisses, out of or from which any other Person or Persons assessed shall be removed, or which at the Time of making such Rates respectively as aforesaid was empty or unoccupied, that then, and in every such Case, such Person so removing from, and every Person so coming into, or occupying the same, shall be liable to pay such Rates in Proportion to the Time that such Person occupied the same respectively, in the same Manner and under the like Penalties as if such Person so removing had not removed, or such Person so coming in or occupying had been originally rated and assessed in such Rates; which said Proportion, in case of Dispute, shall be ascertained by any Five or more of the said Trustees.

Churchwardens to sign the Poors Rates;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Rates and Assessments, so to be made as aforesaid for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish, shall be signed by the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the time being, or by the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, and shall be allowed by Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex; and Notice thereof shall be given in the Parish Church of the said Parish the next Sunday after the same shall be so allowed; and

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the Rate or Assessment for the Lighting and Watching as aforesaid shall be signed by the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them. and Trustees, that for Lighting, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Rates and Assessments, so to be made and assessed for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish as aforesaid, shall be received, levied, and recovered, in such Manner as Rates and Assessments made for the Relief of the Poor are directed to be levied and recovered, by an Act made in the Forty third Year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, intituled, An Act for the Relief of the Poor, or by any other subsequent Act or Acts relating thereto; and such Methods of levying and recovering the said Rates or Assessments for the Relief and Employment of the Poor, shall, and they are hereby declared to be the legal Methods of enforcing the Payment of the Rates or Assessments directed to be made in pursuance of this Act, for Relief and Employment of the Poor, as fully and effectually as if such Ways and Methods were repeated and re-enacted in the Body of this Act. Poor's Rate to be collected as by the 43d of Q. *Eliz.*

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person shall be in Arrear for any Rate or Assessment to be made by virtue and in pursuance of this Act, the Person and Persons hereby impowered to collect the same, shall and may demand such Arrears, and upon Refusal or Neglect, after such Demand, levy such Arrears in Manner herein before directed. For Recovery of Arrears of Rates.

And, for the more effectual levying the Money rated and assessed for the several Purposes of this Act; be it further enacted, That the Goods and Chattles of any Person, rated or assessed as aforesaid, and neglecting or refusing to pay the Sum or Sums by him respectively payable as aforesaid, shall and may be distrained in Manner aforesaid, not only in the Parish where such Rate or Assessment was made, but in any other Place in the same County; and if sufficient Distress cannot be found within the same County, then, upon Oath thereof made before any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace of any other County, City, Liberty, or Place, (which Oath shall be certified under the Hand of the said Justice or Justices, on the Warrant made for such Distress) the Goods and Chattles of the said Person so neglecting or refusing to pay, shall be subject and liable to such Distress and Sale in such other County, City, Liberty, or Place where the same shall be found, and may, by virtue of such Warrant and Certificate, be distrained in the same Manner as if the same had been found within the said Parish of Saint John at Hackney. Goods may be assessed in another County.

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Churchwardens and Overseers to account to the Trustees.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor respectively of the said Parish from time to time, and they are hereby respectively required, monthly or oftener, if ordered by the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, to pay all such Sum and Sums of Money by them received by virtue of such several Rates or Assessments to be made for the Relief and Employment of the Poor, into the Hands of the said Treasurer; and shall also make up and render to the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, as often as thereunto required by the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, full, true, perfect, and distinct Accounts in Writing of all and every Sum and Sums of Money so collected and received by them respectively by virtue of this Act for the respective Purposes aforesaid, and to pay over all such Monies, so by them collected, and remaining in their Hands, to the said Treasurer in Manner aforesaid; and if the said Overseers, or any of them, shall refuse or neglect to collect such said Rates or Assessments respectively, or to give and render a just, true, and perfect Account and Accounts, or to pay over the Monies remaining in his or their Hands in Manner as aforesaid, then, and in any of the Cases aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for any Two or more Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, on Complaint made to them by any Three or more of the said Trustees, and Proof thereof by the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to commit such Person offending in any of the Cases aforesaid to the County Gaol, there to remain, without Bail or Mainprize, until he shall consent and agree duly to collect such Rates or Assessments, or shall have made, rendered, and delivered such Accounts as aforesaid, and satisfied and paid over to the said Treasurer all such Monies as, upon fair and just Accounts, to be rendered as aforesaid, shall appear to be and remain in his Hands, or until he shall compound for, or otherwise satisfy the said Trustees touching the Monies in his Hands, as the Balance of such Accounts respectively; which Composition the said Trustees, or any Nine of them, are hereby impowered to make.

For the immediate Relief of the Poor.

Provided always, That in case any poor Person within the said Parish shall require immediate Relief, before a Meeting of the Trustees can be had, it shall and may be lawful for the Churchwardens or Overseers of the

the said Parish, or any One of them, to relieve such poor Persons, and to bring in an Account of the Money so by him disbursed to the Treasurer for the time being appointed by this Act, who is hereby required to allow such Account as so much Money received by virtue of this Act; provided that the said Account be first laid before the Trustees at their next Meeting subsequent to the disbursing such Money.

Former Poor Laws to continue in Force.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Laws relating to the relieving, maintaining, and providing for the Poor, shall continue in Force within the said Parish, except where the same are declared to be altered by this Act; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Former Poor Rates to be abolished.

Provided always, That no other Rates or Assessments shall be made for the Relief, Maintenance, and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish, or for the Purposes of Lighting and Watching the said Parish, than are directed to be made by this Act; any Law or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Appointing Collectors.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall and may, and they are hereby impowered, yearly and every Year to appoint Two or more Persons, substantial Inhabitants and Householders in the said Parish, to collect and gather quarterly the Rates and Assessments hereby impowered and directed to be made and collected for the Purpose of Lighting and Watching such Parts of the said Parish as shall be lighted and watched by virtue and in pursuance of this Act: And in case any Person so appointed shall refuse or neglect, within Six Days next after such Appointment and his being served therewith, to take upon himself the said Office of Collector of the said Rates or Assessments, or shall be negligent in the Execution of his Duty, he shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Eight Pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain: And in case any Person, so rated and assessed, shall refuse or neglect to pay such Rate or Assessment, for the Space of Fourteen Days after Demand thereof made, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Collector or Collectors, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of Two or more Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, to levy the same by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of the Party so neglecting or refusing, rendering the Overplus (if any) after the reasonable Charges of such Distress and Sale are first deducted.

No Person to serve the Office of Collector more than Once.

Provided nevertheless, That no Person who shall have Once served the Office of a Collector of the said Rate or Assessment under this Act, shall be compelled to serve the said Office a Second Time.

Collectors to account.

And be it further enacted, That every Collector, who shall have collected or received any Money by virtue of this Act for the Purposes of lighting and watching the said Parish, shall, as often as required by the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, deliver in Writing, under his Hand, to the major Part of the said Trustees at such Meeting as they shall appoint, a true and perfect Account upon Oath (which Oath may be taken in Writing, without any Stamp thereupon, before any Three of the said Trustees, who are hereby impowered to administer the same) of all such Sum and Sums of Money which any such Collector shall have collected or received, or which shall have been rated or assessed as aforesaid, and remain unreceived, and also of all Sums paid, and of all other Matters and Things relating to his Office, committed to his or their Charge by virtue of this Act, and also all Books, Papers, and Vouchers relating to every such Account; and shall pay all the Money which shall be then remaining in the Hands of such Collector to the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, or to such Person as they, or any Five or more of them, shall appoint to receive the same: And if any such Collector shall refuse or neglect to account as aforesaid, or to deliver any such Books, Papers, or Vouchers as aforesaid, that then, and in any of the said Cases, it shall and may be lawful for any Two or more Justices of the Peace for the said County of Middlesex, and they are hereby required, upon Proof thereof, upon the Oath of One or more Witness or Witnesses, at the Request of the said Trustees, or any Three or more of them, to commit every such Collector to the Common Gaol of the said County of Middlesex, there to remain, without Bail or Mainprize, until he shall have made and delivered a true and perfect Account as aforesaid, and shall also have delivered all the Books, Papers, and Vouchers in his Hands or Power relating to any such Collection: And in case any such Collector shall refuse or neglect to pay any Sum or Sums of Money collected or received by virtue of this Act, and which shall remain in his Hands, it shall and may be lawful to and for any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County of Middlesex, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, directed to the Constables, or One of

of the Headboroughs of the said Parish, to levy the same, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of any such Collector, rendering the Overplus (if any) after the Arrears and Charges of such Distress and Sale are deducted and paid; and if sufficient Distress cannot be found whereon such Money so collected and received as aforesaid can be levied and raised, it shall and may be lawful for any Two Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, at the Request of the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, to commit every such Collector, so refusing or neglecting to pay the Money so received by him as aforesaid, to the Common Gaol of the said County of Middlesex, and to detain him therein, there to remain, without Bail or Mainprize, for the Space of Twelve Calendar Months, or until such Collector shall have paid over all Money in his Hands, or compounded for the same, to the Satisfaction of the said Trustees, or the major Part of them, who shall assemble together at any publick Meeting to be held for that Purpose; which Composition the said Trustees, or the major Part of them, who shall be so assembled, are hereby authorized to make and accept.

New Collector to be chosen in case of Death, &c.

And be it further enacted, That if any Person appointed to the Office of Collector shall, during the Year for which he shall be appointed to collect any Rate or Assessment appointed by this Act to be rated or assessed, remove out of the said Parish, or shall die, or shall be guilty of any Neglect or Misbehaviour in the Performance of his Duty, or shall become insolvent; then and in any of the Cases aforesaid it shall and may be lawful to and for the major Part of the Trustees present at any Meeting to be held for that Purpose, to appoint some other fit Person inhabiting within the said Parish to be a Collector of the said Rates or Assessments in and for the remaining Part of that Year in the Stead of such Person so removing, dying, or guilty of any Neglect or Misbehaviour, or becoming insolvent as aforesaid, and the Person so appointed in the Room or Stead of any such Collector shall immediately, upon being so appointed, enter upon and execute the said Office of Collector, subject to the like Penalties, Orders, and Rules, in all Respects, as the preceding Collector, in whose Place or Stead such new Collector shall have been so appointed, was subject to by this Act: And if any Collector, appointed in pursuance of this Act, shall, within the Time of his being Collector, remove out of the said Parish, such Col-

Collector shall, before such Removal, deliver over to the said Trustees, or to such Person as the major Part of the Trustees present at any Meeting shall for that Purpose appoint to receive the same, his Account or Accounts, verified upon Oath as aforesaid, with all Rates, Assessments, Books, Papers, Vouchers, and other Things concerning his Office, and also the Balance of all Money which shall have been received by any such Collector by virtue of his said Office, under the like Penalties as are inflicted by this Act on Collectors refusing or neglecting to account when thereunto required as before directed: And if any such Collector shall die as aforesaid, his Executors or Administrators shall within Thirty Days deliver all Books, Monies, Papers, and Things concerning his Office, to such Person or Persons as the major Part of the said Trustees, at any Meeting to be had by them, shall appoint: And if any Sum or Sums of Money shall be due from any such Collector at his Decease on the Balance of his Collections as aforesaid, the same shall be paid by his Executors or Administrators, as a Debt on special Contract, and in Preference to any Debts of any such Collector on simple Contract.

For appointing a Collector;

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if it shall appear to the said Trustees to be more expedient to appoint One or more Collector or Collectors of the said Rates and Assessments respectively, the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, at a publick Meeting assembled, may and they are hereby authorized and impowered to choose and appoint One or more fit Person or Persons to be Collector or Collectors of the several Rates or Assessments to be raised and levied by virtue of this Act, or either of them; and may from time to time remove such Person or Persons, and appoint another Person or Persons in his or their Room or Stead; and shall or may, out of such Rates or Assessments to be collected by virtue of this Act, make such Allowance to such Collector or Collectors for his or their Trouble in collecting the same, as they or the major Part of them, so assembled as aforesaid, shall think fit, not exceeding the Annual Sum of Three Pence in the Pound, or in Proportion for any less Time than a Year; and they are hereby required to take such Security of such Collector or Collectors so by them appointed, for the faithful accounting for and paying over all such Monies as he or they shall receive by virtue of his or their said Office, as to the said Trustees, or the major Part of them, so assembled as aforesaid, shall appear a sufficient Security; and

and every such Collector shall, and he is hereby required to make up and render to the said Trustees, as often as thereunto required, a full, true, and perfect Account of all the Monies so collected and received by him by virtue of this Act, and pay over such Monies so by him collected and remaining in his Hands, to such Person or Persons as the said Trustees, or the major Part of them, present at a publick Meeting as aforesaid, shall, by Writing under their Hands, authorize and appoint to receive the same, to be applied for the Purposes of this Act: And if such Collector shall refuse or neglect to give a just Account, or to pay the Monies remaining in his Hands in the Manner aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for any Two Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, upon Complaint made to them by any Three of the Trustees, and Proof thereof by the Oath of One or more of them, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to commit such Collector to the Common Gaol, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he shall have made a true Account, and until such Money, as upon the said Account shall appear to be remaining in his Hands, shall be paid and satisfied by such Collector, or by his Security, or shall have compounded for the same with the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them; which Composition the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, are hereby authorized to make. Who is to account.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Collector of the said Rates and Assessments shall embezzle, make away with, detain, or misapply any Sum or Sums of Money which shall be collected by him for the Uses aforesaid, so that the same cannot be recovered from him, or shall die possessed of any Sum or Sums of Money by him collected by virtue of this Act, and which shall not be paid by or recovered from his Executors or Administrators, or Security, within the Space of Thirty Days after his Death, then and in every such Case all and every such Sum and Sums of Money shall be raised by a new Rate or Assessment, to be for that Purpose made on the Inhabitants of the said Parish, and shall be collected and levied in such Manner, and under such Penalties as are herein before provided and enacted for the collecting and levying the Rates and Assessments which shall be made in pursuance of this Act. Additional Rates to be made for Money lost.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person, who shall be appointed Collectors not to be Trustees.

pointed a Collector of any Rate or Assessment made in pursuance of this Act, shall, during the Time he shall continue in his Office of Collector, act as a Trustee in the Execution of this Act.

Monies raised to be applied for the Uses of the Act.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Money which shall be raised by any Rate or Assessment made in pursuance of this Act, shall be issued and applied for the respective Purposes in and by this Act directed and prescribed, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever: And in case the Monies, which shall be assessed in any one Year by virtue of this Act, shall not be sufficient to answer the Purposes for which the same were so rated and assessed, such Deficiency shall be supplied out of the Monies which shall arise out of the Rates or Assessments of the next ensuing Year; and in case there shall remain, at the End of any one Year, any Surplus of Money collected and received by virtue of this Act, such Surplus shall from time to time, as the same shall happen to arise, be carried to the Account of, and be applied in Aid of, the succeeding Year's Expences, in carrying into Execution the Purposes of this Act.

House to be provided for the Poor.

And, that a proper House or Houses may be provided for the Reception of the Poor, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees (who are hereby declared to be Governors and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish) or any Fifteen or more of them, shall have full Power and Authority, and they are hereby authorized and impowered, to purchase any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments within the said Parish, and to alter, repair, and furnish any Building that shall be standing on the same, for the better receiving, employing, and maintaining the Poor of the said Parish, or may erect and build thereon One or more House or Houses, and provide Furniture for the same, or for any other House or Houses or Buildings to be hired within the said Parish for the like Purposes; and by and out of the Monies to be received for the Purchase of the Annuities hereby authorized to be granted or given, shall and may pay and satisfy the Purchase-money for such Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, and all necessary Charges relating thereto, and also all Money which shall appear to be justly due to the Artificers, Workmen and others, employed in and about the erecting and building, or altering, repairing, and furnishing the aforesaid House or Houses for the Poor, and other Matters and Things concerning the same.

Provided

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Fifteen or more of them, 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 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 chargeable upon, and shall from time to time be paid out of, the Money arising by the Rates or Assessments herein before directed to be made for the Relief and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish; and the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall and may, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, from time to time, direct their Treasurer or Treasurers to pay the said Rent or Rents, as the same shall become due; which Warrant so paid shall be allowed in Account to him or them by the said Trustees, upon making up and settling his or their Accounts from time to time, in Manner aforesaid. A Workhouse may be hired.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Seven or more of them, shall, and they are hereby impowered, from time to time, to make and issue such Rules, Orders, and Regulations, as they shall think proper for regulating, maintaining, and employing the Poor of the said Parish; provided nevertheless, that such Rules, Orders, and Regulations be not repugnant to the Laws of this Realm. Trustees to make Orders relating to the Poor;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, may take the Benefit of the Work, Labour, and Service of any such Poor, and apply the same towards their Maintenance, by virtue of this Act; or the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, if they find it expedient, from time to time, may, and they are hereby impowered to contract and agree with any Person or Persons for the lodging, keeping, maintaining, and employing, all or any such Poor, or providing Materials to set them to Work; provided no one Contract or Agreement be made for a longer Time than the Space of One Year. and take the Benefit of their Labour; or farm the Poor.

And whereas many Persons maintained in Publick Workhouses refuse to work, or are guilty of prophane Cursing and Swearing, or other Misbehaviour, and by the Laws now in being no Punishment can be inflicted upon them, without committing them to the House of

Correction or Common Gaol, which Commitments have not been found to answer the Purposes thereby intended; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any poor Person, maintained in the Workhouse or Workhouses of the said Parish, shall embezzle or purloin any of the Apparel provided for any of the Poor, or of the Goods or Provision provided for or belonging to the said Workhouse, or any Work, or Materials for Work, or shall refuse to work, or be guilty of profane Cursing or Swearing, or otherwise misbehave himself or herself, it shall and may be lawful for the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, to cause such Person so offending to be punished in such Workhouse, either by Confinement, Distinction in Dress, Diet, or such other Method or Methods, as may best tend to remedy such Offences in future.

Poor may be punished for Misbehaviour.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person shall knowingly buy, receive into Pawn, or secrete any of the Cloaths or Wearing Apparel of any of the Poor, who, at the Time of passing this Act, or at any Time after, shall be received into and maintained in the Workhouse of the said Parish, or any of the Goods or Materials carried into the said Workhouse, to be wrought up and manufactured or used by the Poor there, or any Work finishing, or when finished, or any of the Goods or Furniture of the said Workhouse, or shall buy or receive any of the Provisions allotted to or provided for the Poor of the said Workhouse, knowing the same to be such, every Person so offending shall forfeit, for every such Offence, the Sum of Five Pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain, upon Conviction, by the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex; which Penalty of Five Pounds shall be levied by Warrant under the Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals of the said Justice or Justices, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of the Offender; one Moiety of the said Penalty to be paid to the Informer, and the other Moiety to be paid to the Overseers of the Poor for the Use of the said Parish; and if no Goods and Chattles can be found whereon to make such Distress, or that the said Penalty shall not be forthwith paid, then and in such Case, such Justice or Justices shall and may, by Warrant under his and their Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals, commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction, there to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding Three Months.

Inflicting a Penalty on Persons taking the Cloaths, &c. of the Poor in Pawn.

And

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And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Trustees, or any One or more of them, from time to time to cause any Person, who shall be found wandering, begging, or misbehaving himself or herself within the said Parish, to be sent to the said Workhouse, there to be detained, kept, and employed, for so long Time as the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall direct, or until he or she shall be discharged by due Course of Law: And in case of any Misbehaviour of any such Person, it shall be lawful for the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, to punish such Offender, in Manner herein before mentioned; or for the said Offence for which he or she was apprehended and sent to the said Workhouse, to cause such Offender to be passed as a Vagrant to his or her Place of Birth, or other legal Settlement, when the same can be found out and discovered. Providing for wandering Poor.

And, for the better enlightening of the said Parish; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall and may, from time to time, order, direct, and appoint, what Number and Sort of Lamps shall be erected and set up, and in what Parts within the said Parish; the first Charges whereof shall be paid out of the Monies to be borrowed by virtue of this Act; and may appoint and contract with any Person or Persons for furnishing such Lamps, or may provide the same themselves, if they shall think fit; and also for the lighting, cleansing, supplying, maintaining, and repairing such Lamps from time to time; and shall likewise direct and appoint how and where the said Lamps shall be placed, and at what Time, and how long the said Lamps shall be and continue lighted, and what Sum or Sums of Money shall be paid to the Person or Persons appointed or contracted with to light, maintain, and repair the said Lamps; and shall make all such further and other Orders and Regulations concerning the said Service as shall appear to them, or any Five or more of them, to be necessary. Lamps to be erected.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the Trustees shall purchase Posts, Lamps, or other Materials relating thereunto, for the Use of the said Parish, the Property thereof shall be vested in the Trustees for the time being, appointed by or in pursuance of this Act; and they are hereby authorized and impowered to bring and prosecute an Indictment or Indictments, Action or Actions, against any Person or Persons for stealing, taking away, breaking, extinguishing, damaging, or spoiling the same. Lamps to be vested in the Trustees.

Inflicting a Penalty on Persons breaking Lamps.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person shall wilfully break, throw down, or otherwise damage any of the said Lamps, or any of the Posts, Irons, or other Furniture thereof, or extinguish any of the said Lamps when lighted, it shall and may be lawful for any Justice of the Peace for the said County, and he is hereby required, upon Oath made of the Commission of any such Offence, to issue a Warrant or Warrants for apprehending the Party or Parties accused; or it shall be lawful for any Person whomsoever, who shall see such Offence committed, to apprehend, as also for any other Person to aid and assist in the apprehending the Offender or Offenders, and by Authority of this Act, and without any other Warrant, to convey such Offender or Offenders, and to deliver him or them into the Custody of a Peace Officer, in order to be secured and conveyed before some Justice of the Peace for the said County, to be dealt with as herein after is directed; and the Party accused, being brought before any such Justice, or Oath being made before him that such Party cannot be found and apprehended, such Justice shall proceed to examine, upon Oath, any Witness or Witnesses who shall appear or be produced to give Information touching such Offences; and if the Party accused shall be convicted of such Offence, either by his Confession, or upon Information as aforesaid, he shall for the First Offence forfeit the Sum of Ten Shillings for each Lamp, Post, Iron, or other Furniture thereof, so broken, thrown down, damaged, or extinguished as aforesaid; and for the Second Offence, the Sum of Fifteen Shillings, for every such Lamp, Post, Iron, or other Furniture; and for the Third and every other subsequent Offence, the Sum of Twenty Shillings, for every such Lamp, Post, Iron, or other Furniture; and full Satisfaction shall also be made to the said Trustees, by such Offender for the Damage so by him done as aforesaid; And in case such Offender shall not, upon Conviction, pay the Forfeiture by him incurred, and make such Satisfaction as aforesaid, the Justice before whom such Offender shall be convicted, is hereby required to commit such Offender to the common Gaol or House of Correction for the said County, there to be kept to Hard Labour for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months; and such Offender shall not be discharged before the Expiration of the Time for which such Offender shall be committed, unless such Forfeiture and Satisfaction shall be sooner paid; One Moiety whereof shall be paid to the Informer or Informers, and the other

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Money shall be applied towards lighting such Parts of the said Parish as shall be lighted by virtue of this Act: And if any Person shall negligently or accidentally break, throw down, or otherwise damage any of the said Lamps, or any of the Posts, Irons, or other Furniture thereof, and shall not, upon Demand, make Satisfaction to the said Trustees for the Damage by such Person done as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace for the said County, and he is hereby required, upon Complaint to him made by any Five or more of the said Trustees, to summon the Party complained of, and upon his Appearance (or making Default to appear, Oath being made that the Party complained of was served with such Summons, or that the same was left at his Dwelling-house or Place of Abode, or that he could not be found) such Justice shall proceed to examine the Matter of the said Complaint, and upon Proof thereof, either by the Confession of the Party complained of, or by the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, shall award and order such Satisfaction to be made by the Party complained of for the Damage so by him done, as to such Justice shall appear just and reasonable, and shall cause the Sum so awarded, in case the same be not forthwith paid upon the making of such Award or Order, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of the Persons complained of; rendering to him the Overplus (if any be) on Demand, after the Charges of prosecuting such Complaint, and of such Distress and Sale shall be deducted.

Trustees may appoint Watchmen.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall and may order, direct, and appoint, what Number of Watchmen they shall judge necessary or proper to be kept in the said Parish for each Year, and nominate and elect such honest and able-bodied Men to be employed in that Service, as they shall think best qualified for the same; and shall likewise direct and appoint where the several Watchmen shall be stationed, and in what Manner they shall be armed and cloathed, and how often they shall go their Rounds, how long they shall continue on their Duty, and what Wages shall be allowed such Watchmen for their Attendance and Service; and may erect or hire a proper Place or Places within the said Parish for the Reception of the said Watchmen, and also proper Places for the Stand or Reception of each respective Watchman in the said Parish; and shall make all such Orders and Regulations as the Nature of

such Service shall appear to them, or any Five or more of them, to require.

Orders and Regulations to be entered in a Book.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Orders and Regulations which shall, from time to time, be made for the better Direction and Government of the Watchmen as aforesaid, shall be entered in a Book or Books to be provided by the said Trustees, and shall be signed by the Clerk who shall be appointed by such Trustees; and such Clerk shall cause a Copy of all such Orders signed by him to be delivered to the several Watchmen for the time being; which Orders the said several Watchmen, and each and every of them, shall, to the utmost of his and their Power, observe, upon Pain to forfeit, for every Neglect or Refusal, a Sum not exceeding the Sum of Ten Shillings.

Powers to the Watchmen.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the said First Day of May, One thousand seven hundred and sixty four, the said Watchmen shall attend, and shall keep Watch and Ward within the said Parish, at such Times and in such Manner as shall be, from time to time, appointed by the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them; and shall, in their Course of Watching, use their best Endeavours to prevent all Mischiefs by Fires, and all Murders, Burglaries, Robberies, and all other Outrages and Disorders; and to that end the said Watchmen, and also the Supervisor of the Watch herein after appointed, and each of them, shall and they are hereby impowered and required to apprehend and detain all Night-Walkers, Malefactors, and suspected Persons, who shall be found wandering or misbehaving themselves, or whom they shall have Reason to suspect of any evil Designs, and shall confine them, in order to be carried, as soon as conveniently may be, before One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County, to be examined and dealt with according to Law: And the said Trustees are hereby impowered to appoint One or more proper Person or Persons, who shall be called a Supervisor or Supervisors of the Watch, and who shall go about and take Notice whether all the Watchmen perform their Duties in their several Stations, according to such Orders and Regulations as shall be made for that Purpose by the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them: And in case the Supervisor or Supervisors, so appointed as aforesaid, shall find any Watchman misbehave himself or neglect his Duty, he or they shall, as soon as conveniently may be, give Notice thereof to the Church-

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wardens or Overseers of the Poor for the time being of the said Parish, who are hereby authorized and required to suspend every such Watchman from the Execution of his Office, and appoint some other fit Person or Persons to officiate therein, until the next Meeting of the said Trustees shall be had, when such Supervisor or Supervisors shall attend, and acquaint the Trustees assembled at such next Meeting with the Misbehaviour or Neglect of such Watchman, in order for the said Trustees to proceed to the Examination of the Offence, and to make such Order in the Premisses as to them shall seem just: And if any such Supervisor or Supervisors of the said Watchmen as aforesaid shall omit or neglect to attend such Trustees at their said next Meeting, to make out his Charge against any such Watchman, every such Supervisor, so neglecting to attend the said Trustees, shall forfeit and pay for every such Neglect or Default the Sum of Twenty Shillings of lawful Money of Great Britain: And the said Trustees are hereby authorized to make such Allowance to the said Supervisor or Supervisors, for their Trouble, out of the Monies arising by this Act, as to the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall seem reasonable: And in case any Watchman shall neglect to keep Watch in Manner or during the Time which shall be so appointed by the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, for that Purpose, or shall depart from or leave keeping Watch during the respective Hours appointed by the said Trustees for keeping the same, or shall otherwise neglect his Duty or misbehave himself, in each and every of the said Cases the Person or Persons so offending shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Shillings of lawful Money of Great Britain.

Watchmen neglecting to attend, others to be appointed.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when and as often as any Watchman, appointed by virtue and in pursuance of this Act, shall make Default in appearing at the Watch-house, or other Place, and at such Hour as shall be from time to time appointed by the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, for the Meeting of the said Watchmen, before they shall proceed to their respective Stands or Stations, that then and so often it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Supervisor or Supervisors of the said Watchmen for the time being, or any One or more of them, who shall be present at such respective Watch-house or Place, to be appointed as aforesaid for the above Purpose, to procure and appoint One fit and

able Person, who shall be willing to undertake the said Service, to patrole and watch in the Place and Stead of every Watchman who shall so make Default in appearing as aforesaid; and such Person so appointed, and undertaking such Service, shall be deemed to be, and shall be for such respective Night, a Watchman appointed in pursuance of this Act, and shall be in like Manner vested with the several Powers and Authorities given by this Act, as if such Watchman had been appointed by virtue and in pursuance thereof by the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, and shall incur and forfeit the same Pains and Penalties for Misbehaviour or Neglect of Duty.

Persons not benefited by the Act, not to pay.

And whereas there are many Persons who occupy Houses in the said Parish, and, by reason of the Situation of such Houses, will receive little or no Advantage from Lighting and Watching as aforesaid; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, at any Meeting assembled, shall and may, on Application of every such Occupier, charge him in such Proportion to the Monies to be received by virtue of this Act for the Purposes aforesaid, as they the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall judge such Occupier ought equitably and justly to pay for the Benefit he may receive from the same.

Trustees to compound.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person within the said Parish shall put out One or more Lamp or Lamps at his own Expence, and keep the same burning for such Time and in the like Manner as the rest of the Lamps to be provided by the said Trustees, that then, and in every such Case, the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall, and they are hereby authorized and impowered to make such Composition with such Person, for an Abatement of such Part of his Share of such Expence, as to the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall appear reasonable.

Vesting the Watch-houses, &c. in the Trustees.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Right and Property of all such Watch-house or Watch-houses, or Places for the Reception of Watchmen, to be erected by virtue of this Act, and all the Materials for building the same, together with the Arms and Materials furnished the said Watchmen, shall be vested in the said Trustees; and they, or any Five or more of them, are hereby impowered to dispose thereof, and to bring Actions, or to prefer Bills of Indictment, against

against any Person or Persons who shall steal, take away or damage the same.

And, in order that the Money may be forthwith raised the better to carry this Act into Execution, 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 Treasurer or Treasurers, to be chosen and appointed by virtue of this Act, to be applied under the Authority of this Act for the Purposes of maintaining, regulating, and employing the Poor within the said Parish, any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Six hundred Pounds; and for the Purposes of Watching and Lighting the said Parish any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of 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 the Behalf of such respective Contributor at the Time of purchasing such Annuity or Annuities; which Annuity or Annuities shall not exceed the Rate of Nine Pounds per Annum for every One hundred Pounds, and so in Proportion for any greater or less Sum to be advanced as aforesaid; and shall be payable or paid by the said Treasurer or Treasurers, as herein after directed, in the Vestry-room of the said Parish, or other Place in the said Parish, as he or they shall appoint, by 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 the First Three Calendar Months next after Payment of his or their respective Purchase-money; which Annuities shall be publickly sold by the said Trustees in the Vestry-room belonging to the said Parish to the best Bidder for the same, on Fourteen 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.

Money to be raised by Annuities.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the respective Annuities, so to be purchased under and by virtue of this Act, shall be and are hereby charged upon the Rates or Assessments respectively to be made by virtue of this Act for the several and respective Purposes for which the said Annuities were purchased; that is to say, The Annuity or Annuities to be purchased by virtue of this Act for the Purposes of purchasing any Lands, Tenements, or Here-

Annuities charged on the Rates.

ditaments within the said Parish, and building, altering, repairing, and furnishing any Building for the providing a suitable Place for receiving, lodging, and employing the Poor of the said Parish, and the necessary Expences incident thereto, shall be charged upon the Rates or Assessments respectively to be made by virtue of this Act for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish; and the Annuity or Annuities to be purchased by virtue of this Act for the Purposes of Watching and Lighting the said Parish, shall be charged on the respective Rates or Assessments to be made by virtue of this Act for those Purposes; and all and every the Contributor and Contributors upon the Credit of this Act, duly paying the Consideration or Purchase Money for any such respective Annuities as aforesaid, or such Person or Persons as he, she, or they shall appoint, his, her, or their respective 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 respective Rates or Assessments hereby appropriated for Payment thereof, during the Term of the natural Life of the Person to be nominated by each such 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 whatsoever.

Annuities how to be paid.

And, for the better ascertaining and regulating the Payment of the said respective Annuities; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall and may, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, directed to the Treasurer or Treasurers to be appointed in Manner aforesaid, order and direct, from time to time, the several quarterly Payments of the said Annuities to be paid to the respective Proprietors as the same shall become due; which said Treasurer or Treasurers is and are hereby required, upon Receipt of such Warrant or Warrants, forthwith to pay the same out of the First Monies which shall be in his or their Hands in pursuance of this Act, and arising by the annual Rates to be made for the Purposes thereof respectively; which Warrants so paid shall be allowed in Account to him or them by the said Trustees upon his Account as aforesaid.

And

And be it further enacted, That there shall be provided by the said Trustees One or more Book or Books, in which shall be fairly written in Words at Length the Names, Ages, proper Additions, and Places of Birth and 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 or 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 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 said 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. Subscribers named to be entered in a Book.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Contributor upon this Act for the Purchase of any such respective Annuity or Annuities as aforesaid, his, her, or their Assigns, upon Payment of any Part or Proportion of the Consideration or Purchase Money, shall have a Receipt from the said Treasurer or Treasurers receiving the same, importing the Receipt of so much Money as shall be so paid; and upon Payment of the Remainder of such Purchase Money, every such Contributor, his or her Assigns respectively, shall have an Order on Parchment or Vellum for Payment of the said Annuity or Annuities for and during the natural Life of such Person as shall be so nominated by such Contributor or Purchaser as aforesaid; which Order shall be signed by the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them; and after signing thereof the same shall be good, valid, and effectual in the Law, according to the Purport and true Meaning thereof and of this Act. Receipts to be given for Money.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Purchaser or Purchasers of any such respective Annuity or Annuities as aforesaid, and his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, at any Time or Times, by Writing under his, her, or their 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 whomsoever, and so toties quoties; and a Memorandum or Entry of all such Assign- Annuities may be assigned;

and entered in Books;

ments, and the Days the same were brought so to be entered, shall be made in a Book, hereby required to be kept for that Purpose at the Expence of the Trustees; and that the said Entry shall be made gratis, and shall and may, at all seasonable Times, be inspected by any Person interested therein; but no such Assignment shall be deemed good and effectual, until such Memorandum or Entry shall be made.

which may be inspected.

Expences of the Act to be first paid.

Provided always, That the Charges and Expences of procuring and obtaining this Act shall be, in the first Place, paid out of the Monies to be taken upon the Credit of this Act, or collected or received by virtue thereof; one Moiety to be paid out of the Rate or Assessment for the Relief of the Poor, or Monies to be borrowed upon the Credit thereof; and the other Moiety out of the Rates or Assessments for watching and lighting, or the Monies borrowed on the Credit thereof.

Penalties and Forfeitures how to be recovered and applied.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Penalties and Forfeitures by this Act imposed, the Manner of levying and recovering whereof is not hereby otherwise particularly directed, shall be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattles, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of Two or more Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex; which Warrant the said Justices are hereby impowered and required to grant, upon the Confession of the Party or Parties, or upon the Testimony of One or more Witness or Witnesses upon Oath; and the Penalties and Forfeitures, when recovered, rendering the Overplus (if any) when demanded, to the Party or Parties whose Goods and Chattles shall be so distrained and sold, the Charges of such Distress and Sale being first deducted, shall be paid to the said Treasurer or Treasurers, and be applied to the respective Purposes whereto the Matter in question shall relate.

Justices of the Peace to administer Oaths.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all Cases where any Oath is required to be made, or any Testimony to be given upon Oath, by virtue or in pursuance of this Act, before any One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County of Middlesex, it shall and may be lawful for any such Justice or Justices to administer such Oath, and they are hereby authorized and required to administer the same.

Penalties may be mitigated.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Five or more of the said Trustees, from time to time, when and as often as they shall see Cause so to do, to mitigate or

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leſſen any of the ſaid Forfeitures or Penalties in which any ſuch Offender or Offenders ſhall be convicted as aforeſaid, in Favour of any ſuch Offender or Offenders, who ſhall immediately pay down, or give Security, to the Satisfaction of the ſaid Truſtees, for the Payment of ſuch Sum of Money, to which the ſaid Truſtees ſhall mitigate ſuch Forfeiture or Penalty unto, ſo as ſuch Mitigation or Leſſening do not extend to remit more than One Moiety of the ſaid Forfeiture or Penalty; and every ſuch Mitigation ſhall be a ſufficient Diſcharge to ſuch Offender or Offenders reſpectively for ſo much of the ſaid Penalties or Forfeitures as ſhall be ſo leſſened, mitigated, or remitted; but that no Mitigation or Leſſening of any of the Forfeitures or Penalties inflicted by this Act ſhall be made or allowed in Favour of any Offender or Offenders, unleſs he or they ſhall reſpectively pay down or give Security as aforeſaid for the Payment of ſuch Sum of Money, to which ſuch Truſtees ſhall think proper to mitigate, leſſen, or remit ſuch Forfeiture or Penalty unto.

Truſtees who are in the Commiſſion of the Peace to act as Juſtices.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Truſtee or Truſtees, appointed or to be appointed to put this Act in Execution, who is or ſhall be in the Commiſſion of the Peace for the County of Middleſex, to act as a Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace, within his or their reſpective Juriſdictions, for putting in Execution the ſeveral Powers and Authorities granted by this Act, notwithſtanding his or their being ſuch Truſtee or Truſtees.

Proceedings to be entered in a Book.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That a Book or Books ſhall be prepared and kept by the ſaid Truſtees, or ſuch Perſon or Perſons as they ſhall appoint, wherein ſhall be fairly entered from time to time the Names of ſuch Perſons as they ſhall nominate and appoint to put in Execution the Purpoſes of this Act; and Copies of all Orders and Proceedings relating thereunto, and alſo an Account of what Monies have been aſſeſſed, raiſed, levied, and paid, by virtue of this Act, and how the ſame have been applied, and the Name or Names of the Annuitant or Annuitants, and what Sum or Sums, he, ſhe, or they, paid for ſuch Annuity or Annuities reſpectively, and what he, ſhe, or they, is or are to receive for the ſame; which Book or Books the ſaid Annuitants, or any of them, and all Perſons contributing to the ſaid Rates or Aſſeſſments, may, at all convenient Times, peruſe and inſpect, without Fee or Reward; which ſaid Book or Books ſhall be ſigned by the

the Clerk to the said Trustees, and shall be kept in the Vestry Room of the said Parish, or such other Place as shall be directed by the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, and shall be deemed and taken to be original Orders, as if the same were under the Hands and Seals of Five or more of the said Trustees; which said Book or Books shall and may be produced and read in all Cases of Appeals, and in any Suits or Actions, touching any thing done in pursuance and by the Authority of this Act.

Trustees to appoint a Clerk.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, are hereby authorized to appoint a Clerk, for the Purposes aforesaid, and from time to time to remove such Clerk, and appoint another in his Stead, and to allow to such Clerk such Salary or Recompence, out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act, as to the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall seem meet.

Notice of Meetings to be given.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Meeting of the said Trustees, or any of them, shall be held for the Execution of this Act, or any of the Powers thereof, other than and except the Meetings by Adjournment, unless public Notice be first given in the Church of the said Parish, immediately after Divine Service, in the Forenoon of the Lord's Day next before such Meeting, by an Order in Writing, signed by One or more of the said Churchwardens or Overseers, or by Three or more of the said Trustees for the time being for putting this Act in Execution.

Writings to be without Stamps.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Writing whatsoever, under the Hands and Seals of, or only signed by, any of the said Trustees, or any Justice or Justices of the Peace, or exhibited before them, or any of them, concerning or in the Execution of any of the Powers or Authorities by this Act granted, shall be chargeable with any Stamp Duty whatsoever.

Persons aggrieved may appeal to the Quarter Sessions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person shall think himself or herself aggrieved by any thing done in pursuance of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for any such Person to appeal to the next General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held for the County of Middlesex; and it shall and may be lawful for the Justices assembled to make such Order therein as to them shall seem meet.

Provided

Plaintiff not to recover if Tender of Amends be made.

Provided always, That no Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall recover in any such Action or Actions, for any Irregularity as aforesaid, if Tender of Amends hath been made by the Party or Parties making such Distress before such Action or Actions was or were brought, nor if Tender of Amends shall be made at any Time after the said Action or Actions shall have been brought, and before the Trial thereof, together with Costs of Suit to the Time of such last mentioned Tender.

Limitation of Actions.

And be it further enacted, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced or brought against any Person or Persons, for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, or of any of the Powers thereby given, or any-ways in relation to the Premises, that then, and in every such Case, the Action or Suit shall be commenced and brought within the Space of Six Months next after the Cause of Action shall arise, and not afterwards; and shall be laid and brought in the County of Middlesex, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such

General Issue.

Action or Suit shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act, and the Special Matter, in Evidence on any Trial to be had thereupon; and if it shall appear to be done in pursuance of this Act, or that such Action or Suit shall be brought after the Time herein before limited in that Behalf, or shall be brought in any other County or Place than as aforesaid, then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants: And upon such Verdict, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall be Nonsuited, or shall discontinue his, her, or their Action or Suit after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared, or if, upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given for the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or

Treble Costs.

Defendants shall and may recover Treble Costs, and have and be intitled to the like Remedy for the same, as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have in other Cases by Law.

Publick Act.

And it is hereby declared, That this Act shall be taken and allowed in all Courts of Justice as a Publick Act, and all Judges and Justices are hereby required to take Notice thereof as such, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.

Provided also, That no Order, Judgement, or other Proceedings, to be made, given, or had, by or before the said Trustees, or any Justice or Justices of the Peace, touching the Conviction of any Offenders against this Act, shall be quashed or vacated for want of Form only, or be removed or removable by Certiorari, or otherwise, into any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster; and if any Person or Persons shall appeal as aforesaid to the Justices of the Peace, at the General or Quarter Sessions for the County of Middlesex, the Person or Persons appealing shall, Fourteen Days at least before such General or Quarter Sessions, give Notice in Writing to the Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being, appointed in pursuance of this Act, of such his, her, or their Intentions to appeal; and shall within Five Days after such Notice given, and before any Appeal shall be allowed, enter into a Recognizance before some Justice of the Peace for the said County, with Two sufficient Sureties, with Condition to try such Appeal at the General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, which shall be held for the said County next after such Notice, and also to pay such Costs and Charges as the said Justices shall award in case such Appeal shall be disallowed; and every such Appeal shall at such General Quarter Sessions be heard and determined: And to prevent any vexatious Actions or Suits against the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, or Collectors, or any other Person or Persons acting by virtue of or under the Authority of this Act, for any Sum or Sums of Money, Fine, Forfeiture, or Penalty due, laid, incurred, or inflicted by virtue or in pursuance of this Act, for or on account of any of the Purposes thereof, the Distress itself shall not be deemed unlawful, nor the Party or Parties making the same be deemed a Trespasser or Trespassers, on account of any Defect or Want of Form in the Warrant of or for the Appointment of such Collector or Collectors, or in the Rate or Assessment, nor in any Warrant of Distress, nor shall the Party or Parties distraining be deemed a Trespasser or Trespassers ab initio on account of any Irregularity which shall be afterwards done by the Party or Parties distraining, but the Party or Parties aggrieved by such Irregularity, shall or may recover full Satisfaction for the Special Damage he, she, or they shall have sustained thereby, and no more, in any Action of Trespass, or on the Case, at the Election of the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs.

Proceedings not to be quashed for want of Form.

not removable by Certiorari.

Distress not unlawful for want of Form.

P.T.O Backwards