Anno quarto

Georgii III. Regis.

An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of *Samford*, in the County of *Suffolk*.

WHEREAS the Poor in the Hundred of Samford, in the County of Suffolk, are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great Expence by their respective Parishes: And whereas the granting of proper Powers for the better Government and Regulation of the Poor in the said Hundred, and providing a Place for their general Reception, will tend to the more effectual Relief and Assistance of such as by Age, Infirmities, or Diseases, are rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their Labour; to the better Employment of the able and industrious; to the Correction and Punishment of the profligate and idle; and to the Education of poor Children in Religion and Industry; and thereby the Poor, instead of being wholly supported by the Publick, may contribute to the Support, Assistance, and Relief mutually of each other, and be of some Advantage to the Community, to which they have hitherto been only a heavy and grievous Burthen; May it 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 Preamble.

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 Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty four, all and every Person and Persons, who shall then be, and from time to time shall thereafter become seised, in his, her, or their own Right, of Lands or Tenements rated to the Poor's Rates in their respective Parishes, within the said Hundred of Samford, at the Value of Thirty Pounds per Annum; and also all Rectors and Vicars for the time being, of the several Rectories and Vicarages within the said Hundred; and also all and every Person or Persons, who then, and from time to time thereafter, shall be rated to the Poor's Rates, in One or more Parish or Parishes within the said Hundred, for Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or Tythes, occupied and enjoyed by him, her, or them, at the Value of Sixty Pounds per Annum; shall be, and are hereby declared to be, incorporated by the Name of The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of *Samford*, in the County of *Suffolk*; and shall for ever, in Name and Fact, be One Body Politick and Corporate in Law, to all Intents and Purposes, and shall have a perpetual Succession, and a Common Seal, and shall be, and be called The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of *Samford*, in the County of *Suffolk*; and shall be enabled to sue and plead, and be sued by that Name, in all Courts and Places of Judicature within that Part of Great Britain called England; and by that Name shall and may purchase, take, and receive, any Goods and Chattles whatsoever, to or for the Use of the said Corporation.

Guardians of the Poor

to be a Corporation.

Proviso. Provided always, That such Corporation shall not be capable of taking or holding any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, except such as are herein after particularly mentioned or expressed.

Women to act by Proxy. Provided always, and be it further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That all Women who shall be seised of Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, or be rated to the Poor's Rates respectively as aforesaid, shall be and are hereby authorized to act as Guardians, for all the Purposes of this Act, by Proxy appointed under their Hands; and the Persons appointing such Proxies may from time to time revoke such Appointment; and such Proxies shall be granted to such Persons as shall be Guardians; but no more than One such Proxy shall be granted to, or received by, any One Guardian whatsoever.

And

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all poor Persons, or Persons incapable of providing for themselves, within the said Hundred of Samford, shall continue under the Government and Management of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of their several Parishes respectively, in the same Manner they now are, until the House or Houses herein after mentioned, shall be built and fitted up for their Reception; and that from and after the General Meeting of the Guardians, which the Directors of the Poor in the said Hundred are herein afterwards required to call within Three Months next after the said House or Houses shall be built and fitted up for the Reception of the Poor, the said poor Persons, and Persons incapable of providing for themselves, shall be under the Government and Management of the said Guardians of the Poor; and that all poor Children which at any Time shall be maintained by the said Guardians, shall be and remain under their Government, the Males till they arrive at the Age of Eighteen Years, and the Females till they shall arrive at the Age of Sixteen Years respectively; and that after such Boys shall attain the Age of Eighteen Years, and such Girls the Age of Sixteen Years respectively, they shall be discharged from the Rule and Government of the said Guardians, and be at their own Disposal.

Poor how to be governed till the House is built;

and then to be managed by the Guardians till a certain Age,

Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Directors and acting Guardians of the Poor herein after directed to be chosen, by and with the Consent of any Two Justices of the Peace for the County of Suffolk, at any Time before such Children shall arrive at such respective Ages as aforesaid, to bind any such Children to be Apprentices for the Term of Seven Years, or to bind any such Male Child or Children Apprentices in the Sea Service, to any Captain, Master, or Owner of any Ship or Vessel, 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; and the Persons to whom such Children shall be bound Apprentices, shall be obliged to receive and provide for such Apprentices, in like Manner as they are now obliged by the Laws in being to provide for Apprentices; and no Apprentice, so bound as aforesaid, shall (except with the Consent of the Directors and acting Guardians present at the weekly Meetings herein after appointed to be had) be assigned or turned over to any other Person; and that the Per-

or put out Apprentices;

sons to whom they shall be so assigned or turned over, shall be obliged to receive and provide for them, in the same Manner, and under the same Penalties and Forfeitures, as the Persons to whom they were First bound as aforesaid, were obliged to receive and provide for them.

or to the Governor or Steward for the time being;

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, by and with the Consent of any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk, at any Time before such Children shall arrive at such respective Ages as aforesaid, to bind any such Children to be Apprentices for the Term of Seven Years, to the Governor or Steward herein after directed to be appointed by virtue of this Act for the time being; and on the Death, Resignation, or Removal of such Governor or Steward, such Apprentices, so bound to the Governor or Steward, shall belong and appertain to the succeeding Governor or Steward, without any formal Assignment being made to him of such Apprentices; and so from time to time to the Governor or Steward for the time being, until the Expiration of the said Term of Seven Years, for which such Children shall have been respectively bound; and such Children shall respectively serve the said Governor or Steward for the time being as Apprentices until the End of the said Term; and shall during the said Term be considered as Apprentices to the Governor or Steward for the time being, to all Intents and Purposes, in the same Manner as if they had been originally bound to every such Governor or Steward respectively; and such Children, so to be bound Apprentices to the said Governor or Steward, shall be provided for and maintained by the said Guardians, during such their respective Apprenticeships, in the same Manner as other poor Children are to be provided for and maintained by virtue of this Act; and all Profits, Benefit, and Advantages arising from such Apprentices, so bound to the said Governor or Steward, shall be accounted for to the said Guardians, and shall be had, received, and taken by them, and be applied for the Purposes of this Act.

or let out;

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and acting Guardians may, on Application made by any Farmer or other Person, wanting a Number of such Children, or other poor Persons in Harvest, Hop-gathering, or other Work suited to the Strength and Ability of such Chil-

dren or other poor Persons, let out such Number of the said Children or other poor Persons as shall be so required, on a Contract for their Labour and Maintenance, at such Wages as shall be agreed for between the said Directors and acting Guardians and the Person or Persons hiring such Children or other poor Persons; which Wages shall be paid to the Treasurer to the said Guardians, and shall be by him accounted for, and be applied for the Purposes of this Act.

Provided also, That if the Parents, Kindred, or Friends of Children so maintained by the said Guardians, shall, either when the said Children shall attain their said respective Ages of Eighteen and Sixteen Years, or at any Time before, be desirous or willing to receive, maintain, and employ such Children, and such Children shall be willing to be so received, maintained, and employed, it shall be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, if they shall so think proper, to dismiss such Children. or delivered to Parents, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors, until the said acting Guardians shall be chosen, and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, after the said acting Guardians shall be chosen, from time to time, to borrow any Sum or Sums of Money for the Purposes of this Act, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Ten thousand Pounds, at an Interest not exceeding Five Pounds per Centum per Annum; and to assign over, by Writing signed by Seven of the said Directors at the least, under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, all or any Part of the Poor's Rates to be collected within the said Hundred of Samford, as a Security for the Repayment of the Principal and Interest of the Money so to be borrowed; and such Securities may be, from time to time, assigned and transferred by Indorsement or otherwise, without Stamps; and such Assignments and Transfers shall intitle the Persons to whom the same shall be made to all Principal and Interest Monies due and to grow due upon such Securities. Power to borrow Money.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians, or so many of them as shall think fit, shall meet at the White Elm Inn in Cobdock, in the said County, on Tuesday the Twenty sixth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty four; and, being so assembled, shall, between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve of the Clock on the same Day, proceed to the Execution of this Act; and, by Majority of First Meeting of Guardians.

Choice of Directors, &c.

of Voices of such of them as shall be so assembled, appoint some One Guardian then present to be President or Chairman of such Meeting; and such Person so elected President or Chairman shall cause the rest of the said Guardians there assembled to proceed, by way of Ballot, to the Choice of Twenty four the most able and discreet of the Guardians; which Twenty four Persons so chosen shall be called Directors of the Poor within the Hundred of *Samford*; and the said Guardians so assembled as aforesaid shall, by Ballot, elect and choose One other proper and substantial Person to be Treasurer, and One other sufficient Person to be Clerk to the said Guardians, who shall from time to time enter all their Proceedings in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose, and likewise such other Officers as the said Guardians shall find necessary for the Execution of this Act.

Rewards to be made to Officers.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall, and they are hereby authorized and required to allow such Rewards to such Treasurer, Clerk, and other Officers, out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act, and also to take such Security from such Treasurer or Treasurers, or other Persons, for the due Execution of his or their Office or Offices, as to the said Directors and acting Guardians shall from time to time seem reasonable.

Removal of Officers.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Treasurer, Clerk, or any other Officer, shall continue in their Offices only during the Pleasure of the said Directors and acting Guardians; and that it shall be lawful for the said Directors and the acting Guardians, to be chosen in Manner herein after directed, who shall be present at any General Quarterly Meeting herein after appointed, by Ballot, to displace them, or any of them; and, upon their Removal, Death, or Resignation, to choose others in his or their Stead.

Directors to purchase Land;

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors of the Poor, to be chosen in Manner aforesaid, shall, and they are hereby required and impowered, as soon as conveniently may be, to enter into Contracts for the absolute Purchase, in Fee-simple, of any Quantity of Land, for the Use of the said Guardians and their Successors, not exceeding Forty Acres, with or without Buildings thereon, lying as near as may be to the Center of the said Hundred, which they may think most fit and convenient for the Situation of a House or Houses for Reception and Employment of the Poor,

and

and other Buildings herein after-mentioned, and for other the Purposes of this Act; and to pay for such Lands or Buildings out of the Money to be borrowed or otherwise raised by virtue of this Act.

not to be rated higher than at the Time of Purchase;

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all future Rates, Taxes, and Levies to be made for any Parish or Place wherein any Lands, Grounds, or Buildings which shall be purchased for the Purposes of this Act shall be situate, such Lands, Grounds, or Buildings shall not be assessed to any such Rates, Taxes, and Levies at an higher Value or improved Rent than at the Time of such Purchase.

and erect a House or Houses for the Reception of the Poor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors shall and may, and they are hereby required, within One Year next after the entering into Contracts for the Purchase of Land as aforesaid, to build and erect, in a plain and durable Manner, on the Land so purchased as aforesaid, the several Buildings following; that is to say, A convenient Building, or Part of a Building, to serve as an Hospital for the Reception of such aged, sick, or infirm Persons, and young Children, as are not able to work; One other Building, or Part of a Building, to serve for the Reception, Maintenance, and Employment of such poor Persons as are able to work; and One other separate Building, or Part of a Building, to serve as a House or Houses of Correction, for the punishing and keeping to hard Labour such idle and disorderly Persons who, being able, shall refuse to work, or otherwise misbehave themselves; and such other Buildings as the said Directors shall find necessary for executing the Purposes of this Act; which shall be called The House or Houses for the Poor in the Hundred of *Samford*; and the said Directors shall keep the Buildings so erected as aforesaid, in good Repair, and from time to time alter or enlarge the same, in such Manner as shall be thought convenient; and that the Expence of purchasing such Lands, and of erecting or preparing such Houses or Buildings, and keeping the same in Repair, shall be defrayed out of the Money arising by virtue of this Act.

Directors to superintend the Building.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors, or any Seven or more of them, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, a Committee, to direct and superintend the said Buildings until the same shall be finished: And the said Committee shall enter all their Proceedings in a Book or Books to

be kept for that Purpose; and shall and may, by Order under their Hands, or the Hands of any Four or more of them, at a publick Meeting assembled, order any Sum or Sums of Money to be paid by the Treasurer or Treasurers out of the Money remaining in his or their Hands for the Purposes of this Act; and such Order or Orders shall be, and is and are hereby declared to be, a Discharge to the Treasurer or Treasurers for any Money by him or them respectively paid.

issue Money,

and provide Furniture and Materials.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors of the Poor within the said District shall and may, within Three Months next after such Workhouse shall be finished, provide and furnish the same with all necessary Furniture, Houshold Goods, and Utensils; and shall also provide a convenient Stock of Flax, Hemp, Wool, Cotton, Thread, Iron, Stone, Wood, Leather, or other Materials, for the Employment of the Poor received into such House or Houses; and for that Purpose only may set up, use, and occupy any Trade, Mystery, or Occupation whatsoever, in such House or Houses.

When Buildings finished,

a General Meeting to be called.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when and so soon as the said Buildings shall be completed and finished, and properly fitted up for the Reception of the said poor Persons as aforesaid, that then the said Directors shall call a General Meeting of all the Guardians of the Poor in the said Hundred of Samford; at which Meeting the said Guardians then assembled, in case any of the said Directors shall be dead, or shall be removed out of the County of Suffolk, or shall refuse to act in the said Office, shall elect One or more fit Person or Persons from amongst all the Guardians, to the said Office of Director, in the Room or Stead of such Person or Persons so dying, removing, or refusing to act, so as to complete the said Directors to the Number of Twenty four; which Person or Persons so to be elected to the said Office shall be chosen by way of Ballot as aforesaid: And the said Guardians, at such Meeting assembled, shall also, by way of Ballot, elect Thirty six Guardians from amongst all the Guardians, who, together with the said Twenty four Directors, shall be the Directors and acting Guardians of the said Poor, for putting in Execution all the Powers and Authorities of this Act within the said Hundred, for the Remainder of the Year in which they shall be so appointed, and until the Tuesday in Easter Week then next following.

And

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall have, and they are hereby declared to have, full Power and Authority to make from time to time such By-laws, Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, as well for the better governing the said Corporation, as for the better governing, employing, and supporting the said poor Persons in the said Hundred, and for the carrying on any Trade that shall be set on Foot for the Employment of the said Poor, and for other the Ends and Purposes of this Act; and from time to time afterwards to repeal, alter, or amend such By-laws, Rules, Orders, or Constitutions, as to them the said Directors and acting Guardians shall seem meet; so that such By-laws, Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, are not repugnant to the Laws of the Land. Directing and acting Guardians to make Orders:

Provided always, That not less than Nine of the said Directors and acting Guardians together (whereof Three at the least to be Directors) shall be present at every Meeting for such Purpose, and the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians then present (of which major Part Three at the least to be Directors) shall give their Assent to such By-laws, Rules, Orders, or Constitutions. Nine to be present.

And be it further enacted, That Four General Quarterly Meetings shall be held by the Directors and acting Guardians in each Year, and One of such Meetings shall be held annually on the Tuesday in Easter Week, the first of which Meetings shall be held at the White Elm Inn in Cobdock, and the subsequent Meetings at such Place as the Directors and acting Guardians present at the preceding General Quarterly Meeting, from time to time shall direct and appoint; and at the Times herein after appointed, and at all such Meetings, on the Tuesday in Easter Week, the then Directors and acting Guardians shall by Ballot fill up any Vacancies that may have happened in the Twenty four Directors, by Death, Removal, or Refusal of acting; and shall by Ballot proceed to choose Thirty six of the Guardians, Twelve of which at least shall not have been acting Guardians the preceding Year, to be acting Guardians together with the said Twenty four Directors for the following Year; that is to say, until the next Tuesday in Easter Week which shall be in the ensuing Year; and at the said General Meeting in Easter Week the Directors and acting Guardians then present shall examine and audit the Treasurer's Accounts, and then shall by Ballot re-elect the same Person or any other Quarterly Meetings.

other Perſon to be Treaſurer for the following Year, and ſo from Year to Year on every ſucceeding Tueſday in Eaſter Week for ever.

Vacancies to be filled up at any Quarterly Meeting.

Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That at any other of the General Quarterly Meetings, herein after directed to be held, the Directors and acting Guardians preſent at ſuch Meetings ſhall and may fill up any Vacancies that may have happened within the Year in the Twenty four Directors and Thirty ſix acting Guardians, by Death or otherwiſe, by way of Ballot as aforeſaid.

Committees for each Quarter:

And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Directors and acting Guardians ſhall, at the ſaid Meeting to be had on the Tueſday in Eaſter Week, appoint Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians together (whereof Six at the leaſt to be Directors) for each Quarter of the ſucceeding Year, to inſpect, direct, manage, and provide for, the ſaid poor People in ſuch reſpective Houſe or Houſes; and for that Purpoſe, the ſaid Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians, or any Three or more of them (whereof One to be a Director) ſhall, in the reſpective Quarters of the Year for which they ſhall be appointed as aforeſaid, meet at the ſaid Houſe or Houſes to be built for the Reception of the Poor aforeſaid every Wedneſday Morning, or oftener if it ſhall be neceſſary, together with the Clerk for the time being; and ſuch of them as ſhall be there preſent ſhall and may give ſuch Directions as they ſhall think proper for the Employment, Maintenance, and Relief of the Poor in ſuch Houſe or Houſes, and for carrying into Execution ſuch Rules, Orders, and Conſtitutions, and ſuch Powers and Authorities, as ſhall be from time to time made and granted by the ſaid Directors and acting Guardians.

Their Power.

Committees for each Month.

Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That the ſaid Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians, ſo to be from time to time appointed as aforeſaid for each and every Quarter in the Year, may and they are hereby authorized, by Agreement amongſt themſelves, to divide themſelves into Committees of Five to act for each Month in each Quarter; but ſo as not to preclude any of ſuch Fifteen from being preſent or voting at any ſuch Weekly or other Meeting aforeſaid; and if there ſhall not be preſent at any Meeting ſo appointed to be held, Three Directors and acting Guardians together (One whereof ſhall be a Director) every Director, who, by any ſuch Agreement as aforeſaid, ought to have attended, and ſhall be abſent, ſhall, for every ſuch Offence, for-

If Three not preſent,

feit

feit the Sum of Twenty Shillings; and every Guardian, who, by any such Agreement as aforesaid, ought to have attended, and shall be absent, shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of Ten Shillings, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of such Director or acting Guardian, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk; and such Forfeiture shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and added by him to the Common Stock for the Use of the Poor. Penalty on Non-attendance.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Three other General Quarterly Meetings shall be held at the Times following; that is to say, On the Tuesday next after the Feast of Saint John the Baptist; on the Tuesday next after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel; and on the Tuesday next after the Feast of The Nativity of our Lord Christ. Times of holding Quarterly Meetings.

Provided always, That if either of the said Feasts shall happen on a Tuesday, then the said General Quarterly Meeting shall be held on the Tuesday following. Proviso.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at the said Four General Quarterly Meetings, the said Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians for the preceding Quarter respectively shall settle their Accounts, and from time to time shall cause the same to be delivered by their Treasurer or Clerk for the time being, or other Officer, to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, at the next Quarter Sessions to be held for the said County of Suffolk at Ipswich; and the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, shall lay the same before the Justices of the Peace at such Sessions, to be by the said Justices examined, audited, and finally passed; for which a Fee of Ten Shillings and Six Pence, and no more, shall be paid to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, and no other Fee or Reward shall be paid to, or be had, received, or taken, by the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, or any other Person or Persons, under any Pretext whatsoever. Accounts to be settled and laid before the Quarter Sessions.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at all such Four General Quarterly Meetings by this Act directed to be held, not less than Nine of the said Directors and acting Guardians together (whereof Three at the least shall be Directors) shall be present; and that the major Part so assembled (of which major Part Three at the least shall be Directors) shall give their Assent to every Order made at such Meeting. Nine Directors to be present.

Assessments to be made.

And, for the better Security of such Sums of Money as shall be borrowed by virtue of this Act, and for providing for the Poor to be employed or relieved in such House or Houses, and for defraying the other Expences of this Act, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at the said yearly and General Quarterly Meetings, the said Directors and acting Guardians shall and may, and they are hereby impowered to assess such Sum and Sums of Money, not exceeding the respective Rates herein after mentioned, upon the several Parishes and Places within the said Hundred, as they the said Directors and acting Guardians shall judge necessary for paying the Interest due on the said Debt, and for defraying the Expences of the current Quarter, and for and towards paying off and discharging the said Principal Debt; and such Assessments being delivered to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, at the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held at Ipswich aforesaid, and being allowed by the Justices of the Peace at such Sessions assembled (for which Delivery and Allowance no Fee or Reward whatsoever shall be had, received, or taken, by any Person or Persons whomsoever) the said Directors and acting Guardians for the time being, or any Three or more of them (whereof One to be a Director) shall be and they are hereby impowered to issue Warrants, under the Seal of the said Corporation, to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor in all and every of the several Parishes and Places within the said Hundred, requiring such Churchwardens or Overseers to pay at some particular Time and Place, to be specified in the said Warrants, the Sums so assessed upon the said several Parishes and Places respectively, to the Treasurer of the said Guardians for the time being, whose Receipt for the same shall be a legal Discharge to such respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor:

Sums to be raised,

And for raising the Sums so assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians, such respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor shall from time to time, and they are hereby required, with as much Equality and Indifference as is possible, to raise by Taxation of every Inhabitant, Parson, Vicar, and others, and of every Occupier of Lands, Houses, Tythes Impropriate, Propriations of Tythes, Coal Mines, or saleable Underwoods, in their respective Parishes and Places, so much Money as shall be assessed upon such respective Parishes and Places by the said Directors and acting Guardians, in such and the like Manner as Money for the Relief

lief of the Poor is by the Laws now in being to be raised; with such and the like Remedy to Persons aggrieved, by way of Appeal, as is given concerning Rates or Assessments made for the Relief of the Poor by the Laws now in being; for all which Sums of Money so assessed and received by the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, in case of any Deficiency, the Parishioners and Inhabitants of the said respective Parishes and Places wherein such Sums of Money shall be so assessed or received, shall be answerable, and shall be compellable to pay the same upon a Re-assessment, which, in that Case, is hereby directed to be made by the Directors and acting Guardians assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting; and such Taxes and Assessments, and also such Re-assessments, shall be levied and recovered in such and the like Manner as Money assessed for the Relief of the Poor is, by the Laws now in being, to be levied and recovered.

not to exceed One Year's Rate on a Medium from *Easter* 1756, to *Easter* 1763.

Provided always, That the Sums to be assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians, at their General Quarterly Meetings, upon any One of the said Parishes or Places, shall not exceed, in any One Year, the Sum which shall have been rated, assessed, or expended, for the Relief of the Poor in such respective Parish or Place, in One Year, upon a Medium, to be drawn from Easter, One thousand seven hundred and fifty six, to Easter, One thousand seven hundred and sixty three.

Monies for other Purposes may be still assessed by Churchwardens, &c.

Provided also, and be it further enacted, That this Act shall not extend to hinder or prevent the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for any of the Parishes or Places within the said Hundred, from assessing and raising any Sum or Sums of Money, to make any Payment or Payments which is or are directed and required by any Law in being to be made out of the Poor's Rates; but such Sum and Sums shall and may be assessed and raised for such Purposes, over and above the Sums assessed and required to be raised by the said Directors and acting Guardians, and shall be accounted for in such Manner as if this Act had not been made.

Parts of Parishes lying out of the Hundred to be assessed.

Provided always, That all such Houses, Lands, and Tythes, as are now and usually have been charged and rated to the Poor's Rates of any of the Parishes within the said Hundred, shall continue to be so charged and rated, although such Houses or Lands be not strictly within the said Hundred of Samford; and that all such Houses and Lands, as have been so usually charged and rated to the Poor as aforesaid, shall be and be deemed as Parcel and Part of the said Hundred of Samford, for

all

all the Purposes of this Act, but for no other Purpose whatsoever; any thing in this Act contained, or any thing else, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Churchwardens, &c. to attend at First Meeting,

And be it enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or One of them, or some Person for them, for each respective Parish or Place within the said Hundred, shall, and they are hereby required, upon Notice in Writing, signed by One of the said Guardians, being delivered to them respectively, or left at their respective Places of Abode, at least Two Days before the First Meeting of the said Guardians, to attend the said First Meeting with the Books in which the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor for Seven Years, from Easter One thousand seven hundred and fifty six, to Easter One thousand seven hundred and sixty three, have been entered; and where no such Books shall be kept, with the original Rates for the Maintenance of the Poor; and shall leave in the Custody of the President or Chairman who shall be chosen at such Meeting, such Books and Rates, together with an Account of all such other Sums of Money not included in the said Rates, as shall have been expended within the said Seven Years by such Churchwardens or Overseers respectively, for the Relief of the Poor in any such Parish or Place; and such President or Chairman shall deliver such Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the Directors, who shall be then also elected, to the End that they may examine the same, and fix and ascertain the Proportions afterwards to be observed in assessing the said respective Parishes and Places; and such Directors shall return such Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the said Churchwardens and Overseers whenever they or any of them respectively shall demand the same, after the Expiration of Thirty Days from the Delivery thereof to such President or Chairman: And in case all or any of such Accounts or original Rates for any Parish or Parishes, Place or Places, shall not be produced at such First Meeting of the said Guardians, such Directors may notwithstanding assess such Parish or Parishes, Place or Places, at their Discretion, but as equally as they can, in like Proportion with other Parishes and Places, Regard being had to the Value of such Parish or Parishes, Place or Places, and to the Number of the Poor usually maintained there.

and deliver Books, Rates, and Accounts.

Parishes to be assessed at Discretion, if no Account or Rates delivered.

Churchwardens to assist, and obey the Orders of Guardians.

And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Constables, or other Parish Officers for the time being, of all and every the Parishes, Divisions, and Precincts, within the said Hundred, shall, from time to time, and at all Times hereafter, aid

and assist the said Guardians, Directors, and acting Guardians, to the best of their Power, and shall at all Times obey their Warrants and reasonable Orders relative to the Execution of this Act: And in case any Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor, or Constable or other Officer, shall refuse or neglect to raise and levy the Sums so assessed upon his respective Parish or Place, or to pay at the Time and Place appointed the Money so collected and levied, or to obey any such Warrants or Orders, every such Churchwarden, Overseer, Constable, or Officer, so neglecting or refusing, shall be summoned, by Writing under the Hands of any Three Directors or acting Guardians, to appear at the next General Quarterly Meeting of the said Directors and acting Guardians to be holden as aforesaid; and if such Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Constable, or other Officer, so summoned, shall neglect or refuse to appear at such General Quarterly Meeting, or, if appearing, he, or any of them, shall not sufficiently excuse or justify him or themselves, but shall, in the Judgement of the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians assembled at such General Quarterly Meeting, be adjudged guilty of disobeying such Warrant or Warrants, Order or Orders; that then, and in every such Case, all and every Person and Persons so adjudged guilty as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay, for every such Offence, any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk; and such Forfeitures shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and added by him to the Common Stock, for the Use of the Poor: But if any such Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Constable, or other Officer, so offending and convicted as aforesaid, shall think himself aggrieved, that then it shall and may be lawful for such respective Officer to appeal to the next Quarter Sessions to be holden for the said County at Ipswich, against the Judgement of the said General Quarterly Meeting; and the Justices of the Peace for the said County, at the said Sessions assembled, shall and may hear and determine such Appeal, and may mitigate or set aside such Penalties, in such Manner as they shall think proper; and the Judgement of such Justices at such Quarter Sessions shall be final, without any other Appeal.

Penalty on Neglect.

Appeal.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the said Directors and acting Guardians shall neglect or refuse to hold any such Quarterly or Annual

Penalty if no Quarterly Meeting held.

Meeting or Meetings, every Director and acting Guardian failing in his Duty therein, shall, for every such Default, forfeit the Sum of Five Pounds, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of such Director or acting Guardian, by Order of the next General Quarter Sessions for the said County of Suffolk, to be held at Ipswich, unless a sufficient Reason shall be given on the Behalf of such Director or acting Guardian, to be allowed by such Sessions: And if there shall not appear a sufficient Number of Directors and acting Guardians at any of such Quarterly or Annual Meetings, such necessary Rate shall be ordered to be made by any Two Justices of the Peace of the said County; and in case no such Order is made within One Month from the Time when such Quarterly Meeting should have been held, the same Proportion shall be rated, assessed, and raised, in such respective Parishes and Places, by the respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the ensuing Quarter, as was raised in the preceding Quarter; and shall be paid to the said Treasurer in such Manner as is herein before mentioned with respect to the Taxing, Assessing, Collecting, Recovering, and Paying, of the Sums assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians.

Guardians to grant Certificates.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That after the Poor are under the Government of the said Guardians at the Time appointed by this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians of the Poor, at any of their General Quarterly Meetings assembled as aforesaid, to grant Certificates under the Common Seal of the Corporation to any Person whose legal Settlement shall be in any Parish or Place within the said Hundred of Samford, and who shall be willing to remove, or shall have removed out of the said Hundred; which respective Certificates under the Common Seal of the said Guardians, and attested by their Clerk for the time being, and signed by Two 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 other Certificates whatsoever to be granted within the said Hundred shall be valid or of any Effect; any Law, Statute, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Certificates to be delivered to the Clerk.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That as soon as the said Poor are under the Government of the said Guardians as aforesaid, all Certificates which have been delivered to, and remain in the Custody of, the respective parochial Officers, by Persons residing

ing within the said Hundred, shall be delivered forthwith; and all Certificates which hereafter shall be delivered to the respective parochial Officers by Persons coming to reside, or residing, within the said Hundred, shall be, from time to time, delivered within the Space of Fourteen Days after the Receipt thereof by such Officer, to the Clerk to the said Guardians for the time being, who shall cause the same to be filed, so that Reference may be had thereto at any future Time.

Parish to maintain the Poor, not producing Certificate.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the Parishioners of any Parish within the said Hundred shall suffer any Person, whose legal Settlement shall not be in any Parish within the said Hundred, to inhabit within their Parishes respectively, without producing such Certificate as aforesaid, and such Person shall become chargeable to such Parish, that then the whole Charge and Expence occasioned by such poor Person shall be defrayed by that Parish only, without any Assistance from the Common Stock; any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bonds relating to Bastard Children to be delivered to Guardians.

And be it further enacted, That all Bonds already given to parochial Officers, within the said Hundred by private Persons, to indemnify the Parishes from any Charge that may arise from particular Bastard Children, shall be delivered likewise by such respective Officers to the said Guardians of the Poor; and it shall and may be lawful for the said Guardians to sue on such Bonds in their own Name, and they shall recover the Penalties thereof, as if such Bond had been originally made to them; and all Bonds hereafter to be given for the same, or any the like Purposes as aforesaid, shall be made to the said Guardians of the Poor; any Law, Statute, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Guardians to sue in their own Name.

Future Bonds to be given to Guardians.

Voluntary Contributions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all voluntary Contributions which well-disposed and charitable Persons shall think proper to make towards carrying on the good Purposes hereby intended, shall be paid to and received by the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and be applied and disposed of in such Manner for the Maintenance, Cloathing, Employment, Accommodation, and Benefit of the Poor in such House or Houses, as the Contributor and Contributors shall direct and appoint; and if no particular Direction or Appointment shall be given or made touching the Application of such Contributions, the same shall be made Part of the Common Stock, and applied for the general Purposes of this Act; and a List of the Names of such

such Contributors, and an Account of the Sums by them contributed, shall be affixed in the most conspicuous Part of the said House or Houses.

Appointment of Steward or Governor,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled from time to time, to appoint a Governor or Steward to oversee and inspect the Persons so maintained in such House or Houses, who shall be a Member of the Church of England, well recommended for Sobriety, Honesty, and Diligence, and who shall be capable of Reading, Writing, and casting Accounts; and also any Woman or Women who shall be maintained by the said Guardians, or any other Woman or Women, as to the said Directors and acting Guardians shall seem most expedient, as a Matron or Matrons to attend and superintend the Poor in such House or Houses, under the Direction of such Governor or Steward of the Poor in such House or Houses; and such Governor or Steward shall have the Care and Management of the Poor maintained in such House or Houses, and shall from time to time make Reports of the Behaviour of such poor Persons who shall be there maintained.

Matrons,

and a Clergyman:

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall and may, from time to time, appoint some Clergyman of the Church of England to instruct such Persons as shall be maintained in such House or Houses in the Principles of the Christian Religion, and the Children in the Church Catechism, which the Governor or Steward shall Once at least in every Week hear such Children repeat; and also to visit the Sick, baptize the Children, bury the Dead, and perform other Offices of his Profession in such House or Houses; and the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall, and they are hereby impowered to make such Allowance to such Clergyman, and Governor or Steward, and Matron or Matrons, for their Pains and Trouble therein, and may, from time to time, displace or discharge him, her, or them, or any of them, as to them the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any such Meeting assembled, shall appear reasonable, and shall and may pay such Allowances out of the Money to be raised by virtue of this Act.

Allowance to them.

Poor misbehaving, to be punished.

And be it further enacted, That if any poor Person maintained and relieved in the said House or Houses shall

be guilty of profane Curſing or Swearing, or of any lewd, immoral, indecent, or diſorderly Behaviour, or ſhall neglect or refuſe to perform the Work or Service which he or ſhe ſhall be required to do, or ſhall be remiſs therein, ſuch Work or Service being ſuited to his or their Age, Strength, and Ability; every ſuch Offender, if a Child under the Age of Twelve Years, ſhall and may be puniſhed by moderate Correction, or an Abatement of Diet, or Diſtinction in Dreſs and Diet; or if ſuch Offender ſhall be above the Age of Twelve Years, then either by Abatement in Diet, or Diſtinction in Diet and Dreſs, or by being ſet in the Stocks, to be provided for that Purpoſe, without any other Diet than Bread and Water, for any Space not exceeding Twelve Hours; ſuch Puniſhment to be inflicted by Order of the major Part of the ſaid Directors and acting Guardians preſent at any Weekly Meeting to be held in purſuance of this Act.

Penalty on purloining or making away with Implements of Work, or Apparel.

And be it further enacted and declared, That the Apparel with which any of the Poor (who ſhall be maintained by the ſaid Guardians) ſhall be cloathed at the Expence of the ſaid Guardians, ſhall be, remain, and continue, and be deemed and taken to be, the Property of the ſaid Corporation: And in caſe any of the Poor maintained by the ſaid Guardians ſhall purloin, ſell, or pawn, any of the Materials or Implements of Work intruſted to them, and belonging to the ſaid Corporation, or ſhall ſell or pawn any of the Apparel with which they ſhall be cloathed at the Expence of the ſaid Corporation, or in caſe any Perſon or Perſons ſhall run away from ſuch Houſe or Houſes with the Cloaths or Apparel provided by or belonging to the ſaid Corporation, without the Leave of the major Part of the Directors and acting Guardians preſent at a Weekly Meeting to be held in purſuance of this Act, upon Complaint being made thereof before any Juſtice of the Peace for the ſaid County, by any of the ſaid Guardians, or by the ſaid Governor or Steward, ſuch Juſtice of the Peace is hereby required to iſſue a Warrant for the apprehending any ſuch Offender; and for his or her Firſt Offence, to order the Perſon ſo apprehended, being convicted thereof before ſuch Juſtice of the Peace, on the Oath of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, or on his or her own Confeſſion, to be ſent to the Houſe of Correction for the ſaid County, and to be publickly whipped by the Keeper of the ſaid Houſe of Correction, or ſome Perſon appointed by ſuch Keeper, as ſoon as conve-

ntently may be, and then to be discharged from the said House of Correction; and, for the Second Offence, every such Offender shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of Felony, and being legally convicted thereof, shall suffer such Punishment as Persons convicted of Petit Larceny are liable to by the Laws now in being.

Gratuities to be allowed the Industrious, &c.

And to the end that all the poor People in the said House may be encouraged to apply themselves to such Tasks in which they shall be employed with Diligence and Humility, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That out of the Profits arising to the said Corporation from the Work which shall be done by such poor People, such Rewards shall be distributed to the Industrious and Skilful, in Proportion to the Quantity and Perfection of their Work, as to the said Directors and acting Guardians assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting shall appear reasonable, so as no Part of the Money paid in such Gratuities be expended in the Purchase of unwholesome or unnecessary Liquors, the Drinking of which the Governor or Steward, and Matron or Matrons, are hereby strictly enjoined to prohibit and prevent.

and to the Governor and Matrons.

And, for inciting the Governor or Steward, and Matron or Matrons of such House or Houses, to discharge the Duty of their Offices with Diligence and Fidelity, be it enacted, That over and above such Salaries as shall be assigned to them by the Order of the said Directors and acting Guardians, they, and each of them, shall receive, out of the Profits of Work so done by the said poor People, such Proportion thereof, as by the said Directors and acting Guardians, at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall be judged proper; so as such Gratuity shall not exceed Two Pence in the Pound of the Value of the said Profits.

Application of the Profits of the Poor's Work.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Profits of the Work so done by the said poor People in the said House or Houses, deducting thereout such Allowances and Gratuities as are herein before limited, shall be applied in Aid of the said Rates and Assessments towards the Maintenance of the Poor within the said Hundred.

Directors and acting Guardians may contract for employing the Poor.

Provided always, That it shall be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled, from time to time, to contract, if they shall think it expedient so to do, with any Person or Persons for employing all the poor People in the said House or Houses, upon such Terms and Conditions as the

the said Directors and acting Guardians shall think proper; such Contractor or Contractors being subject to such Rules and Regulations as are herein before prescribed for the Ease and Benefit of the said poor People; and to receive the Profits of their Labour, deducting thereout the Gratuities payable to such poor People, and the Governor or Steward, and Matron or Matrons, in Manner aforesaid, in Part or in Full of Payment and Satisfaction for the Service to be performed by virtue of such Contract, so as no such Contract shall subsist or be in Force for a longer Space than One Year.

Penalty on Officers purloining Goods.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Governor or Steward, or other Officer appointed, or Matron or other Person whatsoever, employed by the said Guardians, shall purloin, embezzle, or wilfully misapply, any of the Monies, Materials, or Implements of Work, Utensils, Goods, or Chattles, belonging to the said Corporation, every such Offender shall not only be discharged from his Office, but shall also forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds, and also Treble the Value of such Money, Materials, or Implements of Work, Utensils, Goods, and Chattles, which shall be so purloined, embezzled, or misapplied, to be levied in such Manner as the Penalties and Forfeitures by this Act imposed upon Overseers of the Poor are directed to be levied, and to be applied to the Use of the Poor in the said House or Houses; and in case sufficient Distress shall not be found, then, and in every such Case, it shall and may be lawful to and for any One Justice of the Peace for the said County to commit such Offender to the Common Gaol for the said County, there to remain, without Bail or Mainprize, for any Space not exceeding Six Months, nor less than One Month.

Guardians may apprehend idle Persons refusing to work;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any of the said Guardians to apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, all Persons, being in any Parish or Place within the said Hundred, who, not having wherewith to maintain themselves, live idle without Employment, and refuse to work for the usual and common Wages given to other Labourers in the like Work, in the Parishes or Places where they then are, and to convey, or cause to be conveyed, to some Justice of the Peace for the said County, the Person or Persons so apprehended; and such Person or Persons so apprehended shall be deemed Vagabonds, and shall be dealt with according to the Laws which

to be dealt with as Vagabonds.

shall

shall be then in Force concerning Vagabonds and other idle and disorderly Persons.

Justices to proceed upon Complaint of Directors or acting Guardians, or Governor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all Cases where One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace is or are impowered, by the Laws now in being, to proceed on the Complaint of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish or Parishes, or of any of them, it shall and may be lawful for such Justice or Justices of the Peace, and he and they are hereby required to proceed on the Complaint of any of the said Directors or acting Guardians, or of the said Governor or Steward for the time being, in such and the like Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if such Complaint had been made by such Churchwardens and Overseers, or any of them.

Warrants how to be directed.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Warrants to be issued by any Justice or Justices of the Peace, in pursuance of this Act, or any ways respecting the Government and Management of the Poor within the said Hundred of Samford, shall and may be directed by such Justice or Justices of the Peace either to the said Governor or Steward for the time being, or to the Constable or Constables, or other Peace Officer or Peace Officers of the Parish or Place where the same are respectively to be executed; and such Governor or Steward is hereby authorized and required to execute such Warrants so directed to him accordingly; and all Persons are hereby required to be aiding and assisting to such Governor or Steward in the Execution of such Warrants, in the same Manner as if such Warrants had been executed by a Constable or other Peace Officer.

Forfeitures given to the Poor to be paid to the Treasurer.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Fines and Forfeitures arising from any Offences committed within the said Hundred, where the Whole or any Part thereof is given to the Poor of any Parish, or for any Offences against this Act, shall be paid to the Treasurer to the said Guardians, to the Use of the Poor of such House or Houses.

Expences of the Act to be first paid.

And be it further enacted, That the Charges and Expences of procuring this Act of Parliament shall be paid out of the First Monies to be raised or borrowed by virtue of this Act.

Guardians to defray their own Expences.

And be it further enacted, That the said Guardians, Directors, and acting Guardians, shall, at their First and every other subsequent Meeting, defray their own Charges and Expences.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at the said First and all and every subsequent Meeting of the said Guardians, or any Committee of the said Guardians, or any of them, and all Meetings of the said Directors and acting Guardians, all Questions which shall not be directed by this Act to be determined by Ballot, or agreed to be so determined by such Guardians and Directors, shall be determined by the Majority of the Persons present; and, in case of an Equality of Votes, the Chairman of such respective Meeting or Committee shall have the casting Vote. Questions how to be determined.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall convey any Spirituous or Strong Liquors into any House or Houses to be erected by virtue of this Act, such Person or Persons shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, subject to such and the like Pains and Penalties as are, by an Act of the Twenty fourth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, directed to be inflicted on Persons conveying Spirituous Liquors into Prisons or Gaols. No strong Liquors to be brought into the Houses.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced against any Person or Persons for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, the same shall be commenced within Six Months next after the Fact committed, and not afterwards, and shall be laid and brought in the County of Suffolk, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act, and the Special Matter in Evidence, at any Trial to be had thereupon, and that the same was done in pursuance and by the Authority of this Act: And if it shall appear so to be done, or that such Action or Suit shall be commenced after the Time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County or Place than as aforesaid, that then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and upon a Verdict for the Defendant, or if the Plaintiffs shall be Nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their Action or Suit, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared; or if, upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the said Plaintiff or Plaintiffs; the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover Treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have in other Cases by Law. Limitation of Actions. General Issue. Treble Costs.

Publick Act. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Publick Act, and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.