


ANNO QUADRAGESIMO SECUNDO

# GEORGII III. REGIS.

## CAP. LXIII.

An Act to authorize the ſending and receiving of Letters and Packets, Votes, Proceedings in Parliament, and printed Newſpapers by the Poſt, free from the Duty of Poſtage, by the Members of the Two Houſes of Parliament of the United Kingdom, and by certain publick Officers therein named; and for reducing the Poſtage on ſuch Votes, Proceedings, and Newſpapers when ſent by any other Perſons. [22d *June* 1802.]

WHEREAS it is expedient that the Members of the Two Houſes of Parliament of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* ſhould ſend and receive Letters and Packets by the Poſt free from the Duty of Poſtage, within the ſaid United Kingdom, under certain Regulations and Reſtrictions: May it therefore pleaſe Your Majeſty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and

Members of Parliament may send daily by Poſt within the United Kingdom 10 Letters and receive 15, not exceeding One Ounce each, free from the Duty of Poſtage, on complying with certain Regulations.

by the Authority of the ſame, That, from and after the paſſing of this Act, ſo long as the Revenue ariſing in the General Letter Office or Poſt Office, or Office of Poſtmaſter General, ſhall continue to be carried to and made Part of the Conſolidated Fund of *Great Britain*, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for each and every Member of the Two Houſes of Parliament of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* to ſend by the Poſt to Places within the ſaid Kingdom, free from the Duty of Poſtage, during the ſitting of any Seſſion of Parliament, or within Forty Days before or Forty Days after any Summons or Prorogation of the ſame, any Number of Letters and Packets not exceeding Ten Letters or Packets in any One Day, ſo as none of ſuch Letters or Packets ſhall exceed the Weight of One Ounce, and ſo as each of them be ſuperſcribed or directed in Manner herein-after mentioned; and alſo that it ſhall and may be lawful to and for each and every Member of both Houſes of Parliament of the ſaid United Kingdom, during the ſitting of any Seſſion of Parliament, or within Forty Days before or Forty Days after any Summons or Prorogation of the ſame, to receive by the Poſt, from Places within the ſaid United Kingdom, any Number of Letters and Packets not exceeding Fifteen Letters or Packets in any One Day, ſo as each ſuch Letter and Packet do not exceed the Weight of One Ounce, and be directed to the Member at the Place where he ſhall actually be at the Time of the Delivery thereof, or at his uſual Place of Reſidence in *London*, or at the Houſe of Parliament, or the Lobby of the Houſe of Parliament of which he ſhall be a Member.

Superſcription of Letters ſent ſhall be of the Hand Writing of the Member, with the Name of the Poſt Town, and Date, &c.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Letter or Packet whatſoever, directed by any Member of either of the Two Houſes of Parliament of the ſaid United Kingdom, ſhall be exempted from the Payment of Poſtage, unleſs the whole Superſcription upon every ſuch Letter or Packet ſo ſent ſhall be of the Hand Writing of the Member directing the ſame, and ſhall have endorſed thereon the Name of ſuch Member, together with the Name of the Poſt Town from which the ſame is intended to be ſent, and the Day, Month, and Year when the ſame ſhall be to be put into the Poſt Office; the Day of the Month to be in Words at length, and the Whole to be of the Hand Writing of the Member; and alſo unleſs every ſuch Letter or Packet ſhall be put into the General Poſt Office, or other Poſt Office, or into any receiving Houſe or Place appointed by His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General for the Receipt of Letters and Packets, to be forwarded by the Poſt on the Day of the Date put upon ſuch Letter or Packet, and unleſs the Member whoſe Name ſhall be endorſed thereon ſhall actually be in the Poſt Town into the Poſt Office of which every ſuch Letter or Packet ſhall be put, or within Twenty Miles of ſuch Poſt Town, on the Day, or on the Day before the Day, on which ſuch Letter or Packet ſhall be put into the Poſt Office.

The Surplus Letters above the Number permitted to paſs free, ſhall be charged with the Poſtage in Manner herein directed.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That whenever the Number of Letters or Packets, not weighing more than One Ounce each, ſent or received by any Member of either of the Two Houſes of Parliament of the ſaid United Kingdom, in any One Day, ſhall exceed the Number herein-before permitted to paſs free from the Duty of Poſtage, and the Rates of Poſtage on the ſaid Letters or Packets reſpectively, or any of them, ſhall differ, then ſuch of the ſaid Letters or Packets as would be chargeable with an higher Rate of Poſtage than

than the Remainder, ſhall be included in the Number ſo exempted in Preference to any which would be chargeable with a lower Rate of Poſtage; and the Remainder of ſuch Letters or Packets ſhall be chargeable with the ſeveral Rates of Poſtage reſpectively to which ſuch Letters or Packets would by Law be chargeable, and ſent or received by any Perſons not entitled to ſend or receive Letters or Packets free from the Duty of Poſtage.

The Treaſury and Admiralty, Secretaries of State, Clerks of Privy Council, Secretary at War, &c. may ſend and receive within the United Kingdom, Letters and Packets free from Poſtage;

IV. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Lord High Treaſurer or Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, the Secretaries to the Treaſury, the Lord High Admiral or Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, the Secretaries of the Admiralty, His Majeſty's Principal Secretaries of State, their Under Secretaries, the Clerks of His Majeſty's Moſt Honourable Privy Council, His Majeſty's Secretary at War, the Deputy Secretary at War, His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General, the Secretary to ſuch Poſtmaſter General, the Deputy of the Poſtmaſter General for *Scotland*, his Secretary, the Surveyors of the Poſt Office, the Paymaſter General of the Forces, the Commander in Chief, the Secretary to the Commander in Chief, the Adjutant General of the Forces, the Comptroller of Army Accounts, all within *Great Britain*; His Majeſty's Lieutenant General or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland*, and his or their Chief Secretary, his or their Secretary for the Provinces of *Ulſter* and *Munſter* in *Ireland*, his or their Secretary reſiding in *Great Britain*, the Under Secretary for the Law Department of the Chief Secretaries Office, the Under Secretary and Firſt Clerk for the Military Department of the Chief Secretaries Office, the Lord High Treaſurer or Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, the Secretary to the Treaſury, His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General, all within *Ireland*, and for the Time being, to ſend and receive Letters and Packets by the Poſt, free from the Duty of Poſtage in the United Kingdom, in the ſame Manner and under ſuch Reſtrictions as Perſons heretofore or now authorized to ſend or receive Letters free from the Duty of Poſtage, either in *Great Britain* or *Ireland* reſpectively, do now ſend and receive Letters free from the Duty of Poſtage.

And the Clerk of Parliaments, and certain Clerks of the Houſe of Peers and Commons, may ſend and receive Letters and Packets in ſame Manner;

V. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Clerk of the Parliaments, the Clerk Aſſiſtant, and the Reading Clerk of the Houſe of Peers of the ſaid United Kingdom, and the Clerk of the Houſe of Commons, the Deputy to the Clerk of the Houſe of Commons, the Two Clerks Aſſiſtant of the Houſe of Commons, and the Chief Clerk without Doors of the Houſe of Commons of the ſaid United Kingdom (who receives the Fees, and pays them to the Officers of the ſaid Houſe), to ſend and receive Letters and Packets within the ſaid United Kingdom, free from the Duty of Poſtage, in the ſame Manner and under ſuch Reſtrictions as the Clerk of the Parliaments and the Clerk of the Houſe of Commons are now authorized to ſend and receive the ſame within *Great Britain*.

as may alſo the Treaſurer and Paymaſter of the Navy, and Inſpector of Seamen's Wills.

VI. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Treaſurer or Paymaſter of the Navy, and Inſpector of Seamens Wills, appointed under an Act of Parliament made in the Twenty-ſixth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty for the Time being, to ſend and receive Letters within the ſaid United Kingdom, free from the Duty of Poſtage, in the ſame Manner and under ſuch Reſtrictions as they were by Law authorized, previous to the paſſing of an Act made in the Thirty-fifth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *An Act for further regulating the ſending and receiving Letters free from the Duty of Poſtage, for*

*for allowing Non-commiſſioned Officers, Seamen, and Private Men, in the Army and Navy, whilſt on Service, to ſend and receive Letters at a low Rate of Poſtage, and for permitting Patterns and Samples of Goods to be tranſmitted by the Poſt at an eaſier Rate than is now allowed by Law.*

Lord Chancellor, and certain publick Officers in *Ireland*, may alſo ſend and receive Letters and Packets by the Poſt in *Ireland*, free from Poſtage.

VII. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Lord High Chancellor, the Lord High Treaſurer or Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, the Secretary to the Treaſurer, the Quarter Maſter General, the Chief Commiſſioner of the Barrack Board, the Aſſiſtant Under Secretary for the Law Department of the Chief Secretaries Office, the Firſt Clerk of the Civil Department in the ſaid Office, the Treaſurer or Receiver General of the Poſt Office, the Comptroller of the Sorting Office in the Poſt Office, and the Surveyors of the Poſt Office, all within *Ireland*, for the Time being, to ſend and receive Letters and Packets by the Poſt in *Ireland*, free from the Duty of Poſtage, in the ſame Manner and under ſuch Reſtrictions, as certain Officers in *Ireland* have been accuſtomed in reſpect of their Offices, to ſend and receive Letters and Packets, under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament made in the Fortieth Year of His preſent Majeſty's Reign, for granting certain Duties and Rates upon the Poſtage and Conveyance of Letters and Packets in *Ireland*.

Poſtmaſter General of *Ireland* may authorize Two Perſons to ſend Letters and Packets concerning the Poſt Office, free from the Duty of Poſtage, &c.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General of *Ireland* for the Time being to authorize under his Hand and Seal, any Perſons, not exceeding Two in Number at One Time, to ſend by the Poſt Letters and Packets which ſhall concern the Buſineſs of the Poſt Office only, free from the Duty of Poſtage ſo as ſuch Perſons, ſo to be authorized, do make and ſubſcribe an Indorſement upon each Letter or Packet, ſignifying that ſuch Letter or Packet is upon His Majeſty's Service, and to ſeal the ſame with the Seal of Office; which Perſons are hereby ſtrictly forbid ſo to indorſe and ſeal any Letter or Packet whatſoever, unleſs ſuch only concerning which they ſhall receive the ſpecial Direction of their ſuperior Officer, or which they ſhall themſelves know to concern the Buſineſs of their reſpective Offices; and if any ſuch Perſon, ſo to be authorized, ſhall knowingly make and ſubſcribe ſuch Indorſement, or procure the ſame to be made, upon any Letter or Packet which does not really concern the Buſineſs of the Office, in reſpect of which he is authorized to make the ſame, he ſhall for the Firſt Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds, to be recovered and applied in ſuch Manner as by the Act of the Ninth Year of the Reign of Queen *Anne*, for eſtabliſhing a General Poſt Office is directed with reſpect to Penalties inflicted by the ſaid Act, and for the Second Offence ſhall be diſmiſſed from his Office.

Perſons entitled to ſend Letters, &c. free from the Duty of Poſtage, may, in caſe of bodily Infirmity, authorize a Perſon to write their Name and Superſcription, and the Poſtmaſter

IX. Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That in caſe any Perſon entitled to ſend any Letters or Packets free from the Duty of Poſtage, being, by bodily Infirmity, diſabled from writing the whole Superſcription of ſuch Letters or Packets, ſhall chuſe to authorize and appoint ſome One Perſon on his Behalf, and in his Stead, to ſign his Name upon, and write the Superſcription of ſuch Letters and Packets, and ſhall cauſe Notice thereof in Writing under his Hand and Seal, or under the Hand and Seal of any Perſon authorized by him ſo to notify the ſame, ſuch Authority being to be certified and atteſted by the Signature of any Witneſſes who ſhall have been preſent

ſent when ſuch Authority was given, and who ſhall ſubſcribe ſuch Notice, to be tranſmitted to His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General, all ſuch Letters and Packets ſo ſigned and ſuperſcribed by the Perſon ſo authorized and appointed, ſhall be allowed to paſs free of the Duty of Poſtage, and ſhall in all Reſpects be proceeded with as if the whole Superſcription had been of the Hand Writing of the Perſon by whom ſuch Authority was given as aforeſaid.

General ſhall permit ſuch Letters, on ſuch Appointment being atteſted and tranſmitted to him, to go free.

X. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for every Member of both Houſes of Parliament of the United Kingdom, and the ſaid reſpective Clerks of the Two Houſes of Parliament herein-before mentioned, to ſend by the Poſt, within the ſaid United Kingdom, any printed Votes, Proceedings in Parliament, or printed Newſpapers, free from the Duty of Poſtage, ſo as the ſame be ſent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides, which ſhall be ſigned on the Outſide thereof by the Hand of any Member of Parliament, or either of the ſaid reſpective Clerks, in ſuch Manner as hath been heretofore practiced; and alſo that it ſhall and may be lawful to and for each and every Member of both the ſaid Two Houſes of Parliament, and for each and every of the ſaid reſpective Clerks, to authorize printed Votes, Proceedings in Parliament, and printed Newſpapers, to be ſent by the Poſt, free from the Duty of Poſtage, addreſſed to him at ſuch Place and Places within the ſaid United Kingdom as he ſhall have previouſly given Notice in Writing to the Poſtmaſter General, either at *London* or *Dublin*.

Members of Parliament and Clerks of both Houſes before mentioned may ſend Votes, Proceedings in Parliament, and Newſpapers, free from the Duty of Poſtage, if ſent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides, and may authorize others to ſend the ſame.

XI. And be it further enacted, That the ſeveral Perſons who, by virtue of any Act or Acts of Parliament paſſed in the Parliament of *Great Britain*, or in the Parliament of *Ireland*, and now in Force, are authorized in reſpect of their Offices to ſend Votes, Proceedings in Parliament, and printed Newſpapers, free from the Duty of Poſtage, ſhall and may ſend the ſame within the United Kingdom, in ſuch and the like Manner as they have heretofore been accuſtomed to do.

Perſons authorized to ſend Votes, *etc.* under any former Act empowered to do ſo in any Part of the United Kingdom.

XII. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General in *England* and *Ireland* reſpectively, or any of the Officers employed under him or them reſpectively, to examine and ſearch any Packet ſent without a Cover, or in a Cover open at the Sides, in order to diſcover whether any other Paper or Thing whatſoever be incloſed or concealed in or with ſuch printed Paper, as is hereby permitted to be ſent free of Poſtage without a Cover, or in a Cover open at the Sides, and in order to diſcover whether ſuch printed Newſpapers ſhall have been duly ſtamped; and in caſe any ſuch other Paper or Thing whatſoever ſhall be found to be incloſed or concealed in or with ſuch printed Paper as aforeſaid, or in caſe there ſhall be any Writing other than the Superſcription upon ſuch printed Paper, or upon the Cover containing the ſame, the Whole of ſuch Packet ſhall be charged with Treble the Duty of Poſtage; and in caſe any ſuch Newſpaper ſhall appear not to have been duly ſtamped, every ſuch Officer is hereby required to ſtop the ſame, and ſend it to the Commiſſioners of the Stamp Duties, either at *London* or *Dublin*, as the Caſe may be.

Packets ſo ſent to be inſpected at the Poſt Office, and if found to conceal any Thing, *&c.* they ſhall be charged Treble Poſtage, *etc.*

XIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for any Perſon whatſoever to ſend any printed Votes, Proceedings in Parliament,

Any Perſon may ſend Votes, Proceedings in

Parliament, and Newspapers by the Post to *Ireland* at the Rate of 1 *d.* for each; and Newspapers from *Ireland* to *England* and *Scotland* at the like Rate of 1 *d.*; if left open at both Ends.

liament, and printed Newspapers, by the Post to *Ireland*, at the Rate of One Penny only for the Carriage of each printed Vote and Proceeding in Parliament, and each printed Newspaper, and also for any Person whatsoever to send any printed Newspaper by the Post from *Ireland* to *England* and *Scotland*, at the Rate of One Penny only for the Carriage of each printed Newspaper; such printed Votes, Proceedings, and printed Newspapers when so sent to be open at both Ends; the said Sum of One Penny to be paid when the said printed Votes, Proceedings in Parliament, and printed Newspapers shall be put into the Post Office; which printed Votes, Proceedings in Parliament, and printed Newspapers shall, on such Payment as aforesaid, be marked Post paid, and the Money received thereon in *Great Britain* shall be carried to the Revenue of the Post Office of *Great Britain*, and the Money received thereon in *Ireland* shall be carried to the Revenue of the Post Office of *Ireland*.

Forging the Hand Writing of any Person, in the Superscription of any Letter or Packet, or altering the Date thereof, to avoid the Payment of Postage, *etc.* deemed Felony.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That if any Person whatsoever shall, from and after the First Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and two, forge or counterfeit the Hand Writing of any Person whatsoever in the Superscription of any Letter or Packet to be sent by the Post, in order to avoid the Payment of the Duty of Postage, or shall forge, counterfeit, or alter; or shall procure to be forged, counterfeited, or altered, the Date upon the Superscription of any such Letter or Packet, or shall write and send by the Post, or cause to be written and sent by the Post, any Letter or Packet, the Superscription or Cover whereof shall be forged, or counterfeited, or the Date upon such Superscription or Cover altered, in order to avoid the Payment of the Duty of Postage, knowing the same to be forged, counterfeited, or altered, every Person so offending, and being thereof convicted in due Form of Law, shall be deemed guilty of Felony, and shall be transported for Seven Years.

Act may be altered or repealed this Session.

XV. And be it further enacted, That this Act may be altered, varied, or repealed by any Act or Acts to be made in this present Session of Parliament.

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