ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO QUARTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

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C A P. CVII.

An Act to render valid certain Indentures for the binding of Parish Apprentices, and Certificates of the Settlement of poor Persons. [23d *July* 1814.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Forty-third Year of Her late Majesty Queen *Elizabeth*, intituled *An Act for the Relief of the Poor*, it is enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, or the greater Part of them, by the Assent of Two Justices of the Peace, to bind the Children of such Parents as shall not (by the said Churchwardens and Overseers or the greater Part of them) be thought able to maintain their Children, to be Apprentices: And whereas by an Act passed in the Eighth and Ninth Year of His late Majesty King *William* the Third, intituled *An Act for supplying some Defects in the Laws for the Relief of the Poor of this Kingdom*, it is enacted, That Persons coming to inhabit in any Parish, Township, or Place, shall bring with them a Certificate under the Hands and Seals of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or the major Part of them, of some other Parish, Township, or Place, thereby owning and acknowledging the Person or Persons mentioned in the said Certificate, to be an Inhabitant or Inhabitants legally settled in that Parish, Township, or Place: And whereas divers Parishes contain within themselves several Townships, Hamlets, or Chapelries, each of which separately maintains its own Poor: And whereas in such Parishes the Churchwardens are for the most Part sworn into their Offices as Churchwardens of the whole Parish, although in Truth and in Fact they act as Churchwardens of the separate Townships, Hamlets, or Chapelries therein contained: And whereas divers Indentures for the binding of Parish Apprentices, and

43 Eliz. c. 2.

8 & 9 W. 3. c. 30.

Certificates of the Settlements of poor Perſons, have heretofore been ſigned and executed by a Perſon or Perſons ſtyling himſelf or themſelves, and ſtated in ſuch Indentures and Certificates, to be Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Chapelwarden or Chapelwardens, of the Townſhip, Hamlet, or Chapelry, binding ſuch poor Apprentices, or granting ſuch Certificate: And whereas ſuch Perſon or Perſons have not been ſworn into the Office of Churchwarden or Chapelwardens of ſuch Townſhip, Hamlet, or Chapelry, but of Churchwarden of the Pariſh wherein ſuch Townſhip, Hamlet, or Chapelry is contained; be it therefore 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 all Indentures for the binding of poor Apprentices, and all Certificates of the Settlements of poor Perſons, which have been heretofore ſigned and executed, or which ſhall hereafter be ſigned and executed by a Perſon or Perſons, who at the Time of his or their ſigning and executing ſuch Indenture, or Certificate of Settlement, acted as Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Chapelwarden or Chapelwardens, of the Townſhip, Hamlet, or Chapelry, binding ſuch poor Apprentice, or granting ſuch Certificate of Settlement, ſhall be deemed and taken to be as good, valid, and effectual, as if the ſame had been ſigned and executed by a Perſon or Perſons actually ſworn into the Office of Churchwarden or Chapelwarden of ſuch Townſhip, Hamlet, or Chapelry: Provided always, that ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall have been duly ſworn into the Office of Churchwarden of the Pariſh wherein the Townſhip, Hamlet, or Chapelry, binding ſuch poor Apprentice, or granting ſuch Certificate, be contained, or into the Office of Churchwarden or Chapelwarden of ſuch Townſhip, Hamlet, or Chapelry.

Indentures and Certificates of Settlement made valid, although the Churchwardens, &c. were not ſworn in.

II. And be it further enacted, That all Indentures for the binding of poor Apprentices, and all Certificates of the Settlement of poor Perſons, which ſhall have been heretofore ſigned and executed, or which may hereafter be ſigned and executed by the Overſeers of the Poor of any Townſhip, Hamlet, Chapelry, or Place, and the Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Chapelwarden or Chapelwardens, acting for or appointed in reſpect of ſuch Townſhip, Hamlet, Chapelry, or Place, or the major Part of them, ſhall be deemed and taken to be as good, valid, and effectual as if the ſaid Indentures and Certificates had been ſigned and executed by ſuch Overſeers and the Churchwardens of the Pariſh wherein ſuch Townſhip, Hamlet, Chapelry, or Place is ſituate, or the major Part of them.

Such Indentures and Certificates to be valid if executed by the Overſeers of the Poor of any Townſhip, &c.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained ſhall be conſtrued to alter, impeach, or affect the Settlement of any Perſon, for whoſe Removal any Order of Juſtices ſhall have been duly made before the paſſing of this Act.

Not to affect Settlements.

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