ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO NONO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XXVIII.

An Act to empower Magistrates to divide the Court of Quarter Sessions. [19th *May* 1819.]

WHEREAS the Courts of Quarter Session, by reason of the great Increase of Business therein, have of late been occupied during many Days, to the great Delay of Suitors, to the Inconvenience of Witnesses and Jurors, and to the Increase of the County Rates; and such Inconvenience is likely to continue unless some Remedy be provided for the same: And whereas it would tend materially to remedy this Inconvenience, if Two or more of the Justices attending the Quarter Sessions should be enabled to sit and proceed, when Occasion should so require, while other Justices should proceed in the Dispatch of the other Business of the same Court: Be it therefore declared and 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 whenever and as often as any Court of Quarter Session or General Session of the Peace shall be assembled for the Dispatch of Business thereunto belonging, the Justices then present may on the First Day of their being so assembled, take into their Consideration the State of the Business likely to be brought before them at such Quarter Session or General Session; and if it shall appear to them that such Business, if heard and determined by the whole Court, is likely to occupy more than Three Days, including

Courts of Quarter Sessions or General Sessions of the Peace may appoint Two or more Justices to form a Court to sit apart from them.

including the Day of their being so assembled, it shall and may be lawful for the said Justices to appoint Two or more Justices, One of whom shall be of the Quorum, to sit apart from themselves in some Place in or near the Court, there to hear and determine such Business as shall be referred to them, whilst others of the Justices are at the same Time proceeding in the Dispatch of the other Business of the same Court; and that the Proceedings so had by and before such Two or more Justices so sitting apart shall be as good and effectual in the Law to all Intents and Purposes as if the same were had before the Court assembled and sitting as usual in its ordinary Place of Sitting, and shall be inrolled and recorded accordingly.

Regulations made for the Apportionment of Business need not be renewed at each succeeding Session.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That when Two or more Justices shall have sat apart in Manner before directed by this Act, and Orders, Rules, and Regulations shall have been made for the Apportionment of Business, such Orders, Rules, and Regulations shall remain and continue in force as long as shall be thought expedient without the necessity of renewing such Orders, Rules, and Regulations at each succeeding Session, to the Intent that the same may become public and better known to all professional and other Persons engaged in or in any Manner interested in the Business of such Quarter Session.

Clerk of the Peace to appoint a Person to record the Proceedings of such separate Court.

III. And be it further enacted, That the Clerk of the Peace or his Deputy (wherever Two or more Justices shall sit apart at any Quarter Session) shall be authorized and required to appoint a fit and sufficient Person to record the Proceedings so had before the Justices sitting apart; and such Proceedings shall be delivered over to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, and shall be equally deemed to be a Part of the Records of such Session, as if the same Proceedings had been recorded by the Clerk of the Peace himself; and it shall be lawful for the Justices assembled at the Quarter Session to make an Order upon the Treasurer of the County to pay to the Clerk of the Peace such Sum or Sums of Money as they shall deem a fit and reasonable Remuneration to the Clerk of the Peace for such Purpose as aforesaid; and it shall be lawful for such Justices to appoint an additional Cryer, and to grant him such Remuneration for his Care and Pains as they shall deem reasonable, which shall in like Manner be paid by the Treasurer of the County.

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