

ANNO PRIMO & SECUNDO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

CAP. XXXII.

An Act for declaring valid certain Indentures of Apprenticeship, and Certificates of Settlements of poor Persons, in *England*. [28th *May* 1821.]

WHEREAS in divers Parishes, Townships, Hamlets, Chapelries and Places in *England*, for a long Period of Time, only One Churchwarden or Chapelwarden has been annually appointed, where Two or more Churchwardens or Chapelwardens had been formerly been appointed for each of such Parishes, Townships, Hamlets, Chapelries, or Places: And whereas divers Indentures for the Binding of Parish Apprentices, and Certificates of the Settlements of poor Persons, which may have been executed and signed by such single Churchwarden or Chapelwarden, acting in and for a Parish, Township, Hamlet, or Place, for which formerly Two or more Churchwardens or Chapelwardens had been appointed, may on that account, if contested in a Court of Law, be deemed to be null and void: And whereas much Litigation has recently arisen between Parishes, owing to the Discovery of such Defect as above-mentioned in the Appointment of Churchwardens and Chapelwardens; and it would tend to prevent future Litigation, if such Indentures and Certificates as before-mentioned were in certain Cases declared to be valid and effectual: 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 by the

Certain Indentures and Certificates of Settlement declared valid.

Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, all Indentures for the Binding of Parish Apprentices, and Certificates of the Settlement or Settlements of poor Persons, which have been, previous to the passing of this Act, executed or signed by One Churchwarden or Chapelwarden, acting or purporting to act in the Capacity of Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Chapelwarden or Chapelwardens, for any Parish, Township, Hamlet, Chapelry, or Place in *England*, for which Two Churchwardens or Chapelwardens had formerly been appointed, shall be deemed and taken to be as good and effectual to all Intents and Purposes as if the same Indentures or Certificates had been executed by One or more Churchwarden or Chapelwarden, Churchwardens or Chapelwardens legally appointed; any Law, Statute, Usage, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Not to affect Decisions already made.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted and declared, That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to affect or set aside any Decision or Judgment made or given in any Court of Judicature respecting any such Indentures or Certificates, or to alter, impeach, or affect the Settlement of any Person for whose Removal any Order of Justices shall have been duly made, previous to the passing of this Act, or to legalize or make valid any Indentures or Certificates to be signed or executed, as herein-before mentioned, after the passing of this Act.

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