ANNO PRIMO & SECUNDO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

****

C A P. LXIV.

An Act to amend the Laws now in force relating to Vagrants, until the First Day of *September* One thousand eight hundred and twenty-two.

[2d *July* 1821.]

WHEREAS the Provisions heretofore made, and now in force, relative to the apprehending and passing of Rogues, Vagabonds, Vagrants, incorrigible Rogues, and other idle and disorderly Persons, are productive of great Expence; and it has been found by Experience that great Frauds and Abuses are committed in the Execution thereof; and it is therefore deemed expedient to discontinue the same, and to make certain other Provisions for the better and more effectual Restraint of such Offenders: 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 from and after the First Day of *September* next, all Provisions heretofore made and now in force relative to the passing of any Rogue, Vagabond, Vagrant, incorrigible Rogue, or other idle and disorderly Person, to his or her Place of legal Settlement or Place of Birth, or to the Place of Abode of his or her Father or Mother, shall cease and determine; and that from and after the First Day of *September* next, it shall not be lawful for any Justice or Justices of the Peace to grant any Pass, or to give any Directions for the Conveyance of any Rogue,

Passing of Vagrants to their Place of Settlement to be discontinued.

Justices not to grant any Passes either to Vagrants or others.

 Vagabond,

Vagabond, Vagrant, incorrigible Rogue, or idle and disorderly Person, to any such Place as aforesaid, or to grant any walking or permissive Pass, or any other Pass whatever, to any Person or Persons whatever.

Present Rewards for apprehending Vagrants abolished.

II. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall not be lawful for any Person to claim or demand, of or from any Justice of the Peace, any Order for any Sum of Money or Reward for apprehending and carrying before such Justice of the Peace, or delivering to any Constable or other Person, any Rogue, Vagabond, Vagrant, incorrigible Rogue, or idle and disorderly Person; nor shall it be lawful for any Justice of the Peace to order or direct to be paid to any Person or Persons, for apprehending any such Offender, any Sum of Money or Reward other than as is herein-after in that Behalf mentioned and provided; any Law, Statute, or Usage to the contrary hereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Power of Justices to order a certain Sum to be paid for the Apprehension of Vagrants;

to be paid by the Overseers of the Parish in which the Act of Vagrancy is committed.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, when any Rogue, Vagabond, Vagrant, incorrigible Rogue, or idle and disorderly Person, shall be apprehended and brought before any Justice of the Peace by any Person or Persons, or shall be apprehended and delivered to any Constable or other such Officer by any Person or Persons (not being a Constable or other such Officer), it shall and may be lawful for such Justice, if in his Discretion he shall so think fit, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, to order any Overseer of the Poor of the Parish or Place wherein such Act of Vagrancy shall be committed, to pay to the Person or Persons so apprehending such Offender, a Sum of Money not exceeding Five Shillings for every Offender so apprehended; which Sum shall be allowed to such Overseer in his Account, he producing the Justice's Order, and a Receipt under the Hand of the Person or Persons to whom such Sum was paid; and if such Overseer shall neglect or refuse to pay the said Sum, the said Justice, on Oath thereof made, may, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, order the same to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods of such Overseer, and the Overplus (if any), after the Charges of such Distress are satisfied, shall be returned to such Overseer, who in such Case shall not be allowed the Sum so levied in his Accounts.

Limiting the Time of Commitment of Vagrants.

Vagrants, during Imprisonment, to be kept to hard Labour. Justices may either com-

IV. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the First Day of *September* next, it shall not be lawful for any Justice or Justices of the Peace (except the Justices in their General or Quarter Sessions assembled) to commit any Rogue, Vagabond, Vagrant, incorrigible Rogue, or idle and disorderly Person, to any Gaol or House of Correction, for any Space of Time exceeding Three Months or less than One Month, unless such Offender shall be so committed to remain in the said Gaol or House of Correction until the next General or Quarter Sessions; and every such Offender, who shall be committed to the said Gaol or House of Correction, shall be there kept to hard Labour during the Period of his or her Confinement therein: Provided always, that it shall be in the Discretion of the Justice or Justices of the Peace before whom

any Person apprehended as a Rogue, Vagabond, Vagrant, or idle and disorderly Person, shall be brought, either to commit or discharge such Person, although an Act of Vagrancy be proved against the Person so charged.

mit or discharge Vagrants.

V. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, when any such Justice or Justices as aforesaid shall commit any such Offender to the House of Correction, there to remain till the next General or Quarter Sessions, it shall and may be lawful for the said Justice or Justices to require the Person or Persons by whom such Offender shall be apprehended, to become bound in sufficient Recognizance to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, to appear to the said General or Quarter Sessions, to prosecute and give Evidence against such Offender, touching his said Offence; and the Justices at their said General or Quarter Sessions are hereby authorized and empowered, at the Request of any Person who shall become bound in any Recognizance to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, to prosecute or give Evidence, and who shall appear to prosecute or give Evidence against such Offender, to order the Treasurer of the County, Riding, Division, or Place in which the Offence shall have been committed, to pay unto such Prosecutor and Witnesses respectively, such Sum and Sums of Money as to the said Justices shall seem reasonable and sufficient to reimburse such Prosecutor and Witnesses respectively for the Expences they shall have been severally put to, and for their Trouble and Loss of Time in and about such Prosecution; which Order of the said Justices the Clerk of the Peace for the said County is hereby directed and required forthwith to make out and deliver unto such Prosecutor, upon being paid for the same the Sum of One Shilling and no more; and the Treasurer of the said County, Riding, Division, or Place is hereby authorized and required, upon Sight of such Order, forthwith to pay to such Prosecutor or other Person authorized to receive the same, such Money as aforesaid, and shall be allowed the same in his Account.

Power of Justices to bind Persons by Recognizance to prosecute Vagrants at Sessions.

Power of Justices in Sessions to order Payment of Expences to Prosecutors and Witnesses.

VI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, when any such Offender as aforesaid, who shall have been committed to the Gaol or House of Correction, shall be duly discharged therefrom, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices visiting the said Gaol or House of Correction, to order and direct such Portion of the Earnings of such Offender during his Confinement therein, or such Sum of Money, to be paid by the Gaoler or Keeper of the said Gaol or House of Correction to such Offender, as such Justices in their Discretion shall think fit; which Sum shall be repaid to the said Gaoler or Keeper of the Gaol or House of Correction, by the Treasurer of the County, Riding, or Division in which such Gaol or House of Correction is situated.

Visiting Justices may order a certain Portion of Vagrants Earnings, &c. to be paid to them when discharged from Prison.

VII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That wherever it shall appear to Two Justices of the Peace, that any Person apprehended as a Rogue, Vagabond, Vagrant, or idle and disorderly Person, and directed to be discharged without being committed, or to

Power to Two Justices to pass Vagrants in certain Cases.

to the said Visiting Justices, or Two or more of them, where any Person shall have been committed to Gaol and discharged therefrom, that it is necessary and proper that such Person or Persons, or any of them, ought to be passed as a Vagrant or Vagrants to his, her, or their Place of Birth, or of Settlement, or to the Place of Abode of his, her, or their Father or Mother, that then and in every such Case it shall and may be lawful for such Justices to cause such Person or Persons to be passed and conveyed in like Manner as he, she, or they might have been before the passing of this Act.

This Act not to alter the 59 G. 3. c. 12, nor to affect Orders for the Removal of poor Persons not Vagrants.

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend, to alter the Provisions of an Act passed in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act to amend the Laws for the Relief of the Poor*, or in any Manner to affect the Mode of passing poor Persons born in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and in the Isles of *Man*, *Jersey*, and *Guernsey*, who may become chargeable to Parishes in *England*, or in any Manner to alter or affect the Mode in which, by the Laws now in force, poor Persons, not having committed Acts of Vagrancy, are directed to be removed to their Places of Settlement.

Continuance of the Act.

IX. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall continue in force until the First Day of *September* One thousand eight hundred and twenty-two, and no longer.

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