ANNO QUARTO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

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C A P. XXIX.

An Act to increase the Power of Magistrates, in Cases of Apprenticeships. [23d *May* 1823.]

WHEREAS by an Act made in the Twentieth Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act for the better adjusting and more easy Recovery of* 20 G. 2. c. 19. *the Wages of certain Servants, and for the better Regulation of such Servants, and of certain Apprentices*, it is, among other things, enacted and provided, that it shall and may be lawful to and for any Two or more Justices of the Peace, upon any Complaint or Application by any Apprentice put out by the Parish, or any other Apprentice, upon whose binding out no larger a Sum than Five Pounds of lawful *British* Money was paid, touching or concerning any Misusage, Refusal of necessary Provision, Cruelty, or other ill Treatment of or towards such Apprentice, by his or her Master or Mistress, to summon such Master or Mistress to appear before such Justices, at a reasonable Time to be named in such Summons; and such Justices shall and may examine into the Matter of such Complaint, and upon Proof thereof made upon Oath to their Satisfaction, (whether the Master or Mistress be present or not, if Service of the Summons be also upon Oath proved), the said Justices may discharge such Apprentice, by Warrant or Certificate under their Hands and Seals, for which Warrant or Certificate no Fees shall be paid; and it is also enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for such Justices, upon Application or Complaint made upon Oath, by any Master or Mistress against any such Apprentice, touching or concerning any Misdemeanor, Miscarriage, or ill Behaviour in such his or her Service, (which Oath such Justices are hereby empow-

ered to administer), to hear, examine, and determine the same, and to punish the Offender by Commitment to the House of Correction, there to remain and be corrected and held to Hard Labour for a reasonable Time, not exceeding One Calendar Month, or otherwise by discharging such Apprentice in Manner and Form before mentioned: And whereas by another Act made in the Thirty-third Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act to authorize Justices of the Peace to impose Fines upon Constables, Overseers, and other Peace and Parish Officers, for Neglect of Duty, and on Masters of Apprentices for ill Usage of such their Apprentices, and also to make Provision for the Execution of Warrants of Distress granted by Magistrates*, it is enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any Two or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, assembled at any Special or Petty Sessions of the Peace, upon Complaint made to them upon Oath, by or on the behalf of any Apprentice to any Trade or Business whatsoever, whether bound Apprentice by any Parish or Township, or otherwise, (provided that not more than the Sum of Ten Pounds be paid upon the binding of such Apprentice), against his or her Master or Mistress, of any ill Usage of such Apprentice by such Master or Mistress, (such Master or Mistress having been duly summoned to appear and answer such Charge or Complaint) to impose, upon Conviction, any reasonable Fine or Fines not exceeding the Sum of Forty Shillings upon such Master or Mistress respectively, as a Punishment for such ill Usage; and by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of any Two or more of such Justices assembled at any such Special or Petty Sessions as aforesaid, to direct such Fine or Fines, if not paid, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Person or Persons so offending, rendering the Overplus (if any) after deducting the Amount of such Fine or Fines, and the Charges of such Distress and Sale, to such Offender or Offenders: And whereas it is expedient that the Provisions of the said Act should be extended to Apprentices upon whose binding out a larger Sum than Five Pounds or Ten Pounds respectively, as mentioned in the said Acts, was paid: 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 *August* One thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, the Provisions of the said recited Acts, so far as the same relate to Apprentices, shall extend and be deemed and construed to extend to all Apprentices upon whose binding out no larger a Sum than Twenty-five Pounds of lawful *British* Money was or shall be paid; any thing contained in the said Acts, or either of them, to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

33 G. 3. c. 55.

Recited Acts to extend to Apprentices bound out at no larger Sum than 25*l.*

Justices may order Premium to be refunded.

II. And be it further enacted, That from and after the First Day of *August* One thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, it shall and may be lawful for any Two or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in any case where they shall direct any Apprentice or Apprentices to be discharged under and by virtue of the said recited Acts or of this Act, to take into Consideration the Circumstances under which such Apprentice or Apprentices shall be so discharged, and to make an Order upon the Master or Mistress of such Apprentice or

Apprentices to refund all or any Part of the Premium or Premiums which may have been or shall be paid upon the binding or placing out of such Apprentice or Apprentices, as such Justices in their Discretion shall see fit; and in case any Sum or Sums of Money which shall be so ordered to be refunded by such Master or Mistress, shall be neglected to be paid to the Person or Persons directed in any such Order to receive the same, it shall and may be lawful for such Two or more Justices, in Petty Sessions, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to levy the same upon the Goods and Chattels of such Master or Mistress, with the Costs and Charges of levying such Distress, rendering the Overplus of the Sale of such Goods and Chattels, upon Demand, to such Master or Mistress; and in case there shall not be sufficient Goods and Chattels whereon to levy the same, then it shall and may be lawful for such Justices to commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction, for any Time not exceeding Two Months, unless the Sum or Sums ordered to be refunded, with all Costs, shall be sooner paid and satisfied.

Recited Acts to continue in force, except as herein altered.

III. And be it further enacted, That the said recited Acts and all and every the Powers and Provisions thereof (save and except such Parts thereof as are varied, altered, or repealed), shall be as good, valid, and effectual for carrying this Act into Execution as if the same had been repeated in this Act.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1823.