

ANNO SEXTO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

CAP. CXXIII.

An Act to establish a Taxation of Costs on Private Bills in the House of Commons; and to prohibit the Sale of certain Offices under the Sergeant at Arms attending the House of Commons.

[5th *July* 1825.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish a Taxation of the Costs and Expences charged by Parliamentary Agents, Solicitors, and others, in respect of Bills subject to the Payment of Fees in Parliament, commonly called Private Bills, and incurred in complying with the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relative to such Bills, and in preparing, bringing in, and carrying the same through the House of Commons; and to make Provision for the more easy Recovery of such Costs and Expences: 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 if any Petitioner or Petitioners for a Private Bill brought into the Commons House of Parliament, or the Agent or Agents of any such Petitioner or Petitioners, shall make Application to the Speaker of the House of Commons, complaining of the Amount of the Costs and Expences charged by any Parliamentary Agent or Solicitor, or any other Person employed in soliciting or preparing such Bill, or in complying with the Standing Orders relative thereto, on behalf of any such Petitioner; or if any Parliamentary Agent or Solicitor, or other Person employed in soliciting any such

On Application made to the Speaker, as to the Costs and Expences of Private Bills, he shall direct the same to be taxed by such Persons as he shall appoint.

such Private Bill, or in preparing the same, or in complying with the Standing Orders relative thereto, shall make Application to the Speaker, complaining that he is aggrieved by the Nonpayment of the Costs and Expences charged by him in respect of any such Private Bill, it shall be lawful for the Speaker, upon receiving any such Application, and the Speaker is hereby authorized and required, to direct that such Costs and Expences, so far as the same shall relate to the House of Commons, shall be taxed by such Person or Persons as the Speaker shall think proper to appoint; and it shall be lawful for any Person or Persons so appointed for the taxing of such Costs and Expences, and he and they is and are hereby required to tax the same, and to report to the Speaker the Amount of such Costs and Expences which such Person or Persons shall think fit to be allowed upon and after such Taxation; and the Speaker shall, upon Application, deliver to the Person or Persons concerned therein and requiring the same, a Certificate, signed by himself, expressing the Amount of the Costs and Expences allowed in and by such Report; and it shall be lawful for the Person or Persons so appointed to tax such Costs and Expences, and he and they is and are hereby authorized respectively, to demand and receive for such Taxation and Report such Fees as shall be from Time to Time fixed by any Resolution of the House of Commons, and for that Purpose to charge the Amount of such Fees at the Foot of such Report, either against the Party applying for such Taxation, or against any Party complained of, or in such Proportions against each of such Parties as such Person or Persons so taxing such Costs may think fit; and such Certificate, so signed by the Speaker, shall be conclusive Evidence of all Demands therein certified, and the Party claiming under the same shall (upon receiving the Amount so certified) give a Receipt at the Foot of such Certificate, and such Receipt shall be sufficient Discharge for such Costs and Expences.

Fees to be allowed for such Taxation.

II. And be it further enacted, That if any Petitioner, Agent, or other Person liable to the Payment of such Costs and Expences, shall refuse to pay the Amount so certified by the Speaker in any Action which shall be commenced for the Recovery of such Costs and Expences, such Certificate so signed by the Speaker as aforesaid shall have the Force and Effect of a Warrant to confess Judgment, and the Court in which such Action shall be commenced shall, upon Motion and Production of such Certificate, order Judgment to be entered up for the Sum specified in such Certificate, in like Manner as if the Defendant or Defendants in any such Action had signed a Warrant to confess Judgment in such Action to that Amount.

In Actions against Persons liable to pay the Costs, the Speaker's Certificate shall have the Effect of a Warrant to confess Judgment.

III. And whereas an Act was passed in the Fifty-second Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act to repeal an Act passed in the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Year of His present Majesty, for establishing certain Regulations in the Offices of the House of Commons, and to establish other and further Regulations in the said Offices:* And whereas it is expedient to repeal so much of the said Act as directs that certain Offices under the Sergeant at Arms attending the House of Commons shall continue to be sold; be it therefore enacted, That so much of the said Act shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

So much of 52 G. 3. c. 11. as permits certain Offices under the Sergeant at Arms to be sold, repealed.

IV. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall have been appointed to any of the said Offices during the present Session of Parliament, he or they shall be exempted and discharged from the Payment of any Sum or Sums of Money for the same to which he or they is or are liable in pursuance of the said recited Act, and he and they is and are hereby exempted and discharged accordingly. Persons appointed during this Session to such Offices exempted from the Payment of Purchase Money.

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