ANNO SEPTIMO & OCTAVO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

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C A P. LXIV.

An Act to establish a Taxation of Costs on Private Bills in the House of Lords. [2d *July* 1827.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish a Taxation of the Costs, Charges, and Expences charged by Parliamentary Agents, 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 Lords relative to such Bills, and in preparing, bringing in, and carrying the same through, or in opposing the same, in the House of Lords: 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 or against a Private Bill brought into the House of Lords, or passed by the Commons House of Parliament and carried up to the House of Lords, or the Agent or Agents of any such Petitioner or Petitioners, shall make Application to the Clerk of the Parliaments, when discharging the Duties of his Office in Person, or in his Absence to the Clerk Assistant, complaining of the Amount of the Costs, Charges, and Expences charged by any Parliamentary Agent; or if any Parliamentary Agent shall make Application to the Clerk of the Parliaments, or Clerk Assistant as aforesaid, complaining that he is aggrieved by the Nonpayment of the Costs, Charges, and Expences charged by him in respect of any such Private Bill or Petition as aforesaid; it shall be lawful for the Clerk of the Parliaments,

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

or

Clerk of the Parliaments to prepare a List of Charges to be allowed to Parliament Agents

or Clerk Assistant as aforesaid, upon receiving any such Application, and he is hereby authorized and required, to direct that such Costs, Charges, and Expences, so far as the same shall relate to the House of Lords, shall be taxed by such Person or Persons as he shall think proper to appoint; and it shall be lawful for any Person or Persons so appointed for the taxing such Costs, Charges, and Expences, and he and they is and are hereby required to tax the same, and to report to the Clerk of the Parliaments, or Clerk Assistant as aforesaid, the Amount of such Costs, Charges, and Expences which such Person or Persons shall think fit to be allowed upon and after such Taxation; and the Clerk of the Parliaments, or Clerk Assistant as aforesaid, 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, Charges, and Expences allowed in and by such Report; and it shall be lawful for the Person or Persons so appointed to tax such Costs, Charges, 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 Lords, 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, Charges, and Expences may think fit; and such Certificate, so signed by the Clerk of the Parliaments, or Clerk Assistant as aforesaid, 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, Charges, and Expences.

Fees to be allowed for such Taxation.

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

II. And be it further enacted, That if any Petitioner, Agent, or other Person liable to the Payment of such Costs, Charges, and Expences, shall refuse to pay the Amount so certified by the Clerk of the Parliaments, or Clerk Assistant as aforesaid, in any Action which shall be commenced for the Recovery of such Costs, Charges, and Expences, such Certificate so signed by him 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.

Taxators to have Power to administer Oaths, and to require Vouchers for all Monies charged by Parliamentary Agents.

III. And be it further enacted, That the Person or Persons so appointed as aforesaid for taxing such Costs, Charges, and Expences shall be empowered, and he and they is and are hereby empowered, to administer an Oath to the Parties appearing before him or them in support of or in opposition to such Taxation, touching the Matters relating thereto; and to require the Production of proper Vouchers for all Monies charged as having been paid by any Parliamentary Agent in the Prosecution of or Opposition to such Private Bill as aforesaid.

IV. And

IV. And be it further enacted, That the Clerk of the Parliaments, or Clerk Assistant as aforesaid, shall, before the First Day of the next Session of Parliament, prepare a List of all Charges which shall appear to him to be justly due and payable to Parliamentary Agents, for their Skill, Time, and Labour bestowed by them in the Prosecution of or Opposition to such Private Bills in the House of Lords as aforesaid; and such List of Charges shall, if approved by the House of Lords, be binding and conclusive upon all Parties concerned therein.

Clerk of the Parliaments to prepare a List of Charges to be allowed to Parliamentary Agents.

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