

ANNO UNDECIMO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

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CAP. XII.

An Act to indemnify Witnesses who may give Evidence, before the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, on a Bill to prevent Bribery and Corruption in the Election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the Borough of *East Retford*.

[26th *April* 1830.]

WHEREAS the Commons of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, in Parliament assembled, have passed a Bill, intituled *An Act to prevent Bribery and Corruption in the Election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the Borough of* East Retford: And whereas it is alleged that there has been the most notorious, long-continued, and general Corruption in the Election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the said Borough of *East Retford*, and that such Bribery and Corruption are likely to continue and be practised in future, unless some Means are taken to prevent the same: And whereas it is necessary to examine, at the Bar of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in respect of such alleged Bribery and Corruption, several Persons: And whereas the Evidence of such Persons may lead to Disclosures tending to expose them to Penal Consequences: And whereas it is expedient to indemnify such Persons, as they are herein-after indemnified, upon their truly and faithfully making such Disclosure and Discovery as herein-after mentioned: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual

All Persons, except Candidates, implicated in Bribery at East Retford, who may be examined by the House of Lords, and who shall make a faithful Disclosure, indemnified.

and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That for the more effectually prosecuting the said Inquiry, that all and every Person and Persons, not having been Candidates or a Candidate for the said Borough at the last Election, who may or hath been or may have been implicated or engaged in such alleged Bribery and Corruption at or connected with any Election of Members to serve in Parliament for the said Borough of *East Retford*, and who shall be examined as Witnesses or a Witness, at the Bar of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, touching such alleged Bribery and Corruption, and who shall, upon such Examination, make a true and faithful Discovery and Disclosure, to the best of his, her, or their Knowledge, touching all Acts, Matters, and Things to which he, she, or they shall be so examined, shall be, and he, she, and they is and are hereby freed, indemnified, and discharged of, from, and against all Penal Actions, Forfeitures, Punishments, Disabilities, and Incapacities, and all Criminal Prosecutions, which he, she, or they may have been or may become liable or subject to, or which he, she, or they may have incurred or may incur at the Suit of His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, or any other Person or Persons, for or by reason or means of or in relation to any Act, Matter, or Thing done or committed by such Person or Persons in respect of such alleged Bribery and Corruption, respecting or concerning which such Person or Persons shall be so examined as aforesaid, and shall make such true and faithful Discovery and Disclosure as aforesaid.

Not to extend to any Persons giving false Evidence.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That this Act, or any thing herein contained, shall not extend or be deemed or construed to extend to give any Benefit or Advantage to, or to indemnify, free, or discharge any Persons or Person from or against any Forfeitures, Penalties, Punishments, Disabilities, or Incapacities, or any Prosecutions, who being examined as aforesaid shall give any false Evidence, or make any false Discovery, or suppress, or refuse fully and truly to disclose, any Act, Matter, or Thing within his, her, or their Knowledge, touching or concerning which such Person or Persons shall be so examined as aforesaid; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding:

Copies of Entries of Examinations may be given in Evidence.

Provided always, that it shall be lawful for all Persons who shall be so examined as aforesaid, upon any Action or Prosecution commenced or instituted or to be commenced or instituted of or in respect of any of the Matters to which they shall be so examined as aforesaid, to give in Evidence, upon the Trial of such Action or Prosecution, Copies of the Entries contained in the Journals of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal upon such their several Examinations; and that such Copies shall be conclusive Evidence, upon the Trial of all such Actions and Prosecutions, of the Fact of the Examination of such Persons, and of the Questions proposed to such Persons, and of the Answers given by them to such Questions.

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