

ANNO UNDECIMO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

****

CAP. XXIII.

An Act to enable His Majesty to appoint certain Persons to affix His Majesty's Royal Signature to Instruments requiring such Signature.

[29th *May* 1830.]

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WHEREAS Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to communicate to Your Parliament, that Your Majesty is labouring under severe Indisposition, which renders it painful and inconvenient to Your Majesty to sign, with Your own Hand, those Instruments which require the Sign Manual; and that Your Majesty relies upon the dutiful Attachment of Parliament to consider, without Delay, of the Means by which Your Majesty may be enabled to provide for the temporary Discharge of this important Function of the Crown, without Detriment to the Public Service: We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, have taken Your Majesty's gracious Message into our immediate Consideration; and, although trusting in the Providence of Almighty God that Your Majesty may be speedily restored to Health and Strength, we feel it our Duty to Your Majesty and to the People of this Realm to comply with Your Majesty's most gracious Recommendation; and we do therefore humbly beseech Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual

His Majesty may appoint One or more Persons to affix His Royal Signature, in the Manner herein set forth, to any Warrant or other Instrument requiring the Sign Manual.

and Temporal, and the Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, by any Warrant or Commission under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, to appoint One or more Person or Persons, to be therein named, not being any or either of the Persons hereby authorized to sign the Memorandum herein-after mentioned, with full Power and Authority to each of them to affix, in His Majesty's Presence, and by His Majesty's Command, given by Word of Mouth, His Majesty's Royal Signature, by means of a Stamp, to be prepared for that Purpose in the Form following; that is to say, "*George* R."; or in Cases where the Royal Signature has usually been by Initials only, then by means of a certain other Stamp, to be prepared for that Purpose in the Form following; that is to say, "*G.* R."; to any Warrant, Commission, or other Writing or Instrument, subject to the Provisions and Regulations herein-after contained; and His Majesty's Royal Signature, so affixed, shall be valid and effectual, and have the same Force and Effect as His Majesty's Sign Manual, and shall be deemed and taken to be, to all Intents and Purposes, His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, and be obeyed as such.

A Memorandum, describing the Nature of the Warrant, &c. to be indorsed thereon.

II. Provided always, and be it enacted, That no Person so to be appointed shall affix His Majesty's Signature as aforesaid to any Warrant, Commission, or other Writing or Instrument, unless a Memorandum in Writing shall have been previously endorsed thereon, describing the Nature and Object of such Warrant, Commission, or other Writing or Instrument, signed by the Lord High Chancellor, the President of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, the Keeper of His Majesty's Privy Seal, the First Lord Commissioner of His Majesty's Treasury, and His Majesty's Three Principal Secretaries of State for the Time being, or any Three or more of them; and that to His Majesty's Royal Signature so affixed shall be subjoined the Words following; that is to say, "Affixed in His Majesty's Presence, and by His Majesty's Command;" which shall be signed by the Person affixing the same.

As to Commissions in the Army.

III. Provided also, and be it enacted, That in all Commissions to Officers in His Majesty's Land Forces, the Memorandum to be indorsed thereon as aforesaid shall be signed by the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces, or by the General commanding in chief for the Time being, and that no other Signature shall be required to such Memorandum.

Stamps to be prepared for the Purpose by Order of the Lord President: Custody of the same.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the said Stamps so to be prepared as aforesaid shall be prepared by the Order and under the Direction of the Lord President of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, and shall be kept in the Custody of the Lord High Chancellor, or the President of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, or the Keeper of His Majesty's Privy Seal, or the First Lord Commissioner of His Majesty's Treasury, or One of His Majesty's Three Principal Secretaries of State for the Time being, and shall not be affixed to any such Warrant, Commission, or other Writing or Instrument, except in their Presence, or in the Presence of One or more of them, who shall attest the same accordingly.

V. And be it further enacted, That each of the Persons so authorized to affix His Majesty's Royal Signature shall, before he shall presume to act under His Majesty's Warrant or Commission authorizing him so to do, take and subscribe the following Oath; that is to say, The Persons authorized to affix the Royal Signature shall take an Oath.

'I *A. B.* do swear, That I will not affix the Royal Signature to any Warrant, Commission, or other Writing or Instrument, except in His Majesty's Presence, and by His Majesty's Command, given by Word of Mouth, and according to the Provisions of an Act, intituled *An Act to enable His Majesty to appoint certain Persons to affix His Majesty's Royal Signature to Instruments requiring such Signature;* and that I will truly and faithfully perform the Duty entrusted to me by His Majesty under the Provisions of the said Act. So help me GOD.'

Which Oath shall be taken before the Lord High Chancellor, who is hereby authorized and required to administer the same.

VI. Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent His Majesty from signing any Warrant, Commission, or other Writing or Instrument, with His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, in the usual and accustomed Manner, or to prevent any Warrant, Commission, or other Writing or Instrument, so signed by His Majesty, from having the same Validity and Effect as if this Act had not passed. Not to prevent His Majesty from signing Warrants in the usual Manner.

VII. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall continue and be in full Force until the End of the present Session of Parliament; but the same may be altered or repealed by any Act or Acts to be passed in the present Session of Parliament. Term of Act.

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