

ANNO DECIMO QUARTO & DECIMO QUINTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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CAP. LXXXII.

An Act to simplify the Forms of Appointments to certain Offices, and the Manner of passing Grants under the Great Seal.

[7th *August* 1851.]

WHEREAS by an Act of the Twenty-seventh Year of King *Henry* the Eighth, Chapter Eleven, Provision is made that all Writings to be passed under the Great Seals therein mentioned should be passed through the Offices of the Signet and Privy Seal respectively, by such Warrants as therein described: And whereas it is expedient to simplify the Manner of Appointment to Offices held at the Pleasure of the Crown, and the Mode of granting such Charters and Letters Patent, as herein-after mentioned: Be it enacted, therefore, by the Queen'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, as follows: 27 H.8. c.11.

So much of 27 H.8. c.11. as relates to Warrants for passing Grants, &c. under the Great Seal repealed.

I. So much of the said Act of the Twenty-seventh Year of King *Henry* the Eighth as relates to the Warrants and other Writings for or preparatory to the passing of any Gift, Grant, or other Writing under the Great Seal of *England* therein mentioned, shall, after the Commencement of this Act, be repealed.

II. In

Authority for passing Grants under the Great Seal.

II. In every Case where, under the said Act of the Twenty-seventh Year of King *Henry* the Eighth, or according to the Law or Usage subsisting before the passing of this Act, any Gift, Grant, or Writing whatsoever to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom would have required a Queen's Bill, or Bills from the Offices of the Signet and the Privy Seal respectively, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, after the Commencement of this Act, by Warrant under Her Royal Sign Manual, addressed to the Lord High Chancellor, or Lord Keeper or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, to command such Lord Chancellor, Lord Keeper or Lords Commissioners, (as the Case may be,) to cause Letters Patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom according to such Warrant; and every such Warrant shall be prepared by Her Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General for the Time being, or One of them, and shall set forth the Tenor and Effect of the Letters Patent thereby authorized to be granted, and shall be countersigned by One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and shall be sealed with the Privy Seal, for which sealing such Royal Sign Manual, so countersigned as aforesaid, shall be sufficient Warrant to the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal; and such Warrant under the Royal Sign Manual, so countersigned and sealed as aforesaid, shall be a sufficient Authority to the said Lord High Chancellor, or Lord Keeper or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal, for passing Letters Patent under such Great Seal, according to the Tenor of the same Warrant, any Law or Usage to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding; and no Queen's Bill, Signet Bill, Privy Seal Bill, or other Warrant or Authority whatsoever, save as herein provided, shall be necessary for or preparatory to the passing of such Letters Patent

Signet and Privy Seal Bills, &c. dispensed with.

Offices of Clerks of Signet and Privy Seal abolished.

III. From and after the Commencement of this Act the several Offices of Clerks of the Signet and Clerks of the Privy Seal shall be abolished.

Compensation to Persons holding abolished Offices, or sustaining Loss of Emolument.

IV. It shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to grant to the Persons holding Offices hereby abolished, and to all Persons who may sustain any Loss of Fees or Emolument by reason of the passing of this Act, such Compensation as, having regard to the Tenure and Nature of their respective Offices, such Commissioners deem just and proper to be awarded.

Duties of Signet Office (not superseded by this Act) to be performed

V. All Powers and Duties whatever now exercised or performed by the Clerks of Her Majesty's Signet or otherwise in the Office of Her Majesty's Signet, not superseded or otherwise provided for by this Act, shall after the Commencement of this Act be exercised and performed,

performed, in the Office and under the Direction of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, by such Persons as such Secretary of State shall from Time to Time appoint. in Office of Secretary of State.

VI. It shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, from Time to Time after the passing of this Act, to determine and regulate the Establishment to be maintained after the Commencement of this Act for executing the Duties of the Privy Seal Office, and to fix the Salaries to be paid to the several Officers of such Establishment. Power to Treasury to regulate the Privy Seal Office, and fix Salaries.

VII. It shall be lawful for the Lord High Chancellor, or Lord Keeper or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, from Time to Time after the passing of this Act, to frame and establish such further Rules and Regulations to be observed in the passing of Letters Patents under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom as shall seem to them expedient. Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State may make Rules concerning the passing of Letters Patent.

VIII. Provided also, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to or affect any Letters Patent, Writ, Commission, or other Writing which may now be passed under the Great Seal by the Fiat or under the Authority or Directions of the Lord High Chancellor, or Lord Keeper or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, or otherwise, without passing through the Offices of the Signet and the Privy Seal. Act not to affect Letters Patent, &c. not passed through Signet and Privy Seal Offices;

IX. Nor shall the Duties, Rights, Patronage, Privileges of Nomination, or other Privileges belonging to or exercised by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Keeper and Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal, in the Name or on the Behalf of Her Majesty, or otherwise, be by this Act in any way or respect prejudiced, affected, or varied, except so far as is herein specifically enacted. nor Rights, &c. of Lord Chancellor.

X. This Act shall, save where herein otherwise provided, commence from and after the Thirty-first Day of *December* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-one. Commencement of Act.

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