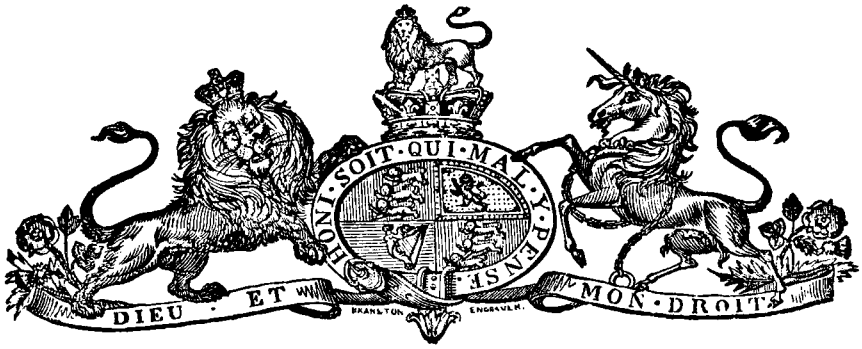


ANNO SEPTIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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CAP. VII.

An Act to indemnify Witnesses who may give Evidence during this Session before either House of Parliament touching Gaming Transactions.

[22d *March* 1844.]

WHEREAS a Select Committee of the Lords House of Parliament was appointed, on the Fifth Day of *February* in this Year, to inquire into the Laws respecting Gaming: And whereas it is expedient to enable the said Committee, or any other Committee of either House of Parliament which has been or may be appointed in this Session of Parliament, or either of the said Houses of Parliament, at its Bar, to examine Witnesses in proof of the Operation of the Laws touching Gaming, and to indemnify such Persons upon their making such true and faithful Disclosure and Discovery as herein-after mentioned: Be it therefore enacted 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, That for the more effectually prosecuting any such Inquiry every Person who may have been implicated or engaged in any Gaming Transaction, or any Transaction connected with Gaming, and who during

All Persons implicated in Gaming Transactions, who may be

examined before any Select Committee of the Lords or Commons, and shall make a faithful Disclosure, indemnified.

during this Session of Parliament shall be examined as a Witness at the Bar, or before any Select Committee of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, or of the Commons, touching such Transaction, and who shall upon such Examination make a true and faithful Discovery and Disclosure, to the best of his or her Knowledge, touching all Acts, Matters, and Things to which he or she shall be so examined, shall be by virtue of this Act freed, indemnified, and discharged of, from, and against all penal Actions, Forfeitures, Punishments, Disabilities, and Incapacities, and all Criminal Prosecutions, which he or she may have been or may become liable or subject to, or which he or she may have incurred or may incur, at the Suit of Her Majesty, Her Heirs or Successors, or any other Person, 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 Transaction, save and except any penal Action or Criminal Prosecution which was commenced before the said Fifth Day of *February*, and the Forfeitures, Punishments, Disabilities, and Incapacities consequent upon any Judgment given in any such penal Action or Criminal Prosecution as last aforesaid.

Witnesses not to be indemnified unless they shall have a Certificate of having made a faithful Disclosure.

II. Provided also, and be it enacted, That no such Witness shall be indemnified under this Act unless he or she shall receive from the Lord Chancellor or the Speaker of the House of Commons, or the Chairman of such Committee, a Certificate in Writing stating that such Witness has, upon his or her Examination, made a true and faithful Disclosure touching all Acts and Matters to which he or she has been so examined, which said Certificates the Lord Chancellor or the Speaker or the Chairman of such Committee shall be authorized to give; and if any Action, Information, or Indictment shall at any Time be pending in any Court, in respect of such Transaction, against any Person or Persons who shall have been so examined as a Witness or Witnesses in manner above mentioned, such Court shall, on the Production and Proof of such Certificate or Certificates, stay the Proceedings in any such Action, Indictment, or Information, and may, in its Discretion, award to any such Person or Persons such Costs as he, she, or they may have been put to by such Action, Information, or Indictment.

Act may be amended this Session.

III. And be it enacted, That this Act may be altered or amended by any Act to be passed during this present Session of Parliament.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and ANDREW SPOTTISWOODE, Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1844.