

ANNO SEXTO

GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

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CAP. X.

An Act to indemnify Witnesses who may give Evidence before the Lords Spiritual and Temporal on a Bill to exclude the Borough of *Stafford* from sending Burgesses to serve in Parliament.

[19th *May* 1836.]

WHEREAS the Commons of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* in Parliament assembled have passed a Bill, intituled *An Act to exclude the Borough of* Stafford *from sending Burgesses to serve in Parliament:* And whereas it is alleged that there has been the most notorious, long-continued, and general Bribery and Corruption in the Election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the Borough of *Stafford*, 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 may be desirable to examine as Witnesses at the Bar of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in respect of such alleged Bribery and Corruption several Persons; and the Evidence of such Persons may tend to expose them to Penal Consequences: And whereas it is expedient to indemnify such Persons, upon their making such true and faithful 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 and Temporal, and Com-

All Persons implicated in Bribery at Stafford, who may be examined before the House of Lords and shall make a faithful Disclosure, indemnified.

mons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That for the more effectually prosecuting the said Inquiry, every Person who 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 *Stafford*, 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 or her Knowledge touching all Acts, Matters, and Things to which he or she shall be so examined, shall be and he and she is hereby 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 His Majesty, His 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 Bribery and Corruption.

Witnesses examined before the House of Lords, or any Committee thereof, not to be indemnified unless they shall have a Certificate from the Lord Chancellor.

II. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That where any Witness shall be examined before the House of Lords or any Committee of the said House, such Witness shall not be indemnified under this Act unless he or she shall receive from the Lord Chancellor 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 is hereby authorized to give; and if any Action, Information, or Indictment shall at any Time be pending in any Court for Bribery at any former Election for the Borough of *Stafford* 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.

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