



ANNO TRICESIMO NONO

GEORGI III. REGIS.

Cap. 4.

An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor of the Parish of *Saint Bridget*, otherwise *Saint Bride*, *Fleet Street*, in the City of *London*.

[21st March 1799.]

WHEREAS the Poor of the Parish of *Saint Bridget* otherwise *Saint Bride*, in the City of *London*, are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great Expence by the said Parish; and the granting proper Powers for the governing, maintaining, and regulating the said Poor, will tend to the Diminution of such Expence, and to the more effectual Relief of such as by Age and Infirmities are rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their Labour, to the better Employment of the Able and Industrious, to the proper Correction and Punishment of the Profligate and Idle, and to the Education of the Poor Children in Religion and Industry: May it therefore please 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 and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the present Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the said Parish, and the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers for the Time being, with *Andrew Abbott*, *Daniel Allenby*, *James Arding*, *John Blades*, *Charles Bonner*, *Joseph Brasbridge*, *William Brownlow*, *Thomas Burnell*, *Samuel Chamberlain*, *Thomas Cotterell*, *William Coles*, *James Curtis*, *Zachariah Darby*, *Roger Dewey*, *Robert Emerton*, *John Eyles*, *Charles Fairbone*, *Benjamin Faulkner*, *John Folgham*, *John Forbes*, *Joseph George*, *John Grant*, *Robert Gray*, *Henry Harrison*, *Robert Herring*,
[Loc. & Per.]

Preamble.

Trustees.

Herring, Grainger Iwe, Henry Isberwood, Richard Joseph, William Lambert, William Moore, John Morgan, Harvey Walklate Mortimer, John Nichols, John Parkinson, Samuel Parker, George Penton junior, William Peacock, Enos John Pineger, John Plaw, Joseph Proctor, the Reverend John Priden M. A., Samuel Roberts, Robert Rusted, James Sheares, Peter Smith, Christopher Southgate, Phillip Stallard, Edward Spencer, Andrew Strahan, Thomas Taylor, Samuel Thatcher, John Tyce, Benjamin Varley, John Walkden, William West, John Wilmot, John Wood, and William Wright, shall be, and they and their Successors, to be elected in Manner herein-after mentioned, are hereby appointed Trustees for putting this Act in Execution.

Appointment
of new Trust-
tees.

II. And be it further enacted, That when and as often as any Trustee hereby appointed, or to be appointed in pursuance of this Act (except such Persons as are declared to be Trustees by virtue of their Situation or Office), shall die, or refuse to act, or neglect to act for the Space of Six Calendar Months, or shall remove out of the said Parish, or in case the Number of Trustees shall at any Time be reduced to less than Forty, exclusive of such as are Trustees by virtue of their Situation or Office, it shall be lawful for the surviving, continuing, or remaining Trustees, or any Seven or more of them, upon Three Days Notice at least to be given in the Church of the said Parish after Morning and Evening Prayers, and before the Sermon (which Notice the Clerk of the said Parish is hereby required to read and to give, or cause to be read and given), to assemble as often as Occasion shall require in the Vestry Room of the said Parish; and the major Part of the said Trustees so assembling shall and may elect and appoint one other fit Person, being an Inhabitant of the said Parish, to be a Trustee, in the Stead of every Trustee so dying, removing, refusing, or neglecting to act, or otherwise, as the Case may be, such and so many fit Persons, Inhabitants as aforesaid, as shall be requisite to make the Number of Trustees Forty, exclusive of such as are Trustees by virtue of their Situation or Office as aforesaid; and such Person and Persons so from Time to Time elected and appointed shall have the same Power and Authority to act in the Execution of this Act as the Trustee or Trustees in whose Stead he or they shall be elected and appointed were invested with.

Qualification
of Trustees.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Person shall be eligible or capable of acting as a Trustee in the Execution of this Act (except the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the said Parish) but for and during so long and such Time only as he shall either pay or be liable to pay, as Landlord or Tenant, for Premises situate in the said Parish, valued and rated at the Sum of Thirty-five Pounds a Year at the least, for and towards the Rates and Assessments herein-after directed to be made for the Purposes of this Act, or shall in his own Right, or in the Right of his Wife, be in the actual Possession or Receipt of the Rents of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, in the said Parish, of the clear yearly Value of Thirty-five Pounds, or shall be possessed of or entitled unto a Personal Estate of the Value of One thousand Pounds; and if any Person, not being so qualified as aforesaid, shall presume to act in the Execution of this Act, every such Person shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of Fifty Pounds, together with Costs of Suit, to any Person who shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any

Penalty for
acting, not be-
ing qualified.

of His Majesty's Courts of Record by Action of Debt or on the Case, or by Bill, Plaint, or Information, wherein no Essoin, Protection, or Wager of Law, or more than one Imparlance, shall be allowed, and wherein the Proof of the Qualification shall be in the Person prosecuted; and it shall be sufficient for the Prosecutor to prove that the Person so prosecuted had acted as a Trustee in the Execution of this Act.

IV. And be it further enacted, That no Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor for the Time being, or their or any of their Assistants, or any Trustee appointed or to be appointed by virtue of this Act, shall provide, furnish, or supply any Goods, Materials, or Provisions that shall or may be provided, bought, or supplied by virtue of this Act, or shall hold any Place of Profit, or enter into any Contract, or have any Share or Interest in any Contract, for the Use of the Workhouse or Workhouses erected or to be erected in the said Parish, during the Time of his being Churchwarden, or Overseer, or Assistant, or Trustee, as aforesaid; and that every Person acting contrary thereto, and being thereof lawfully convicted, shall forfeit the Sum of Fifty Pounds, to be recovered in the same Manner as is provided for the Recovery of the Penalty or Forfeiture last herein-before mentioned, one Moiety whereof shall go and be paid to such Person as shall inform and sue for the same, and the other Moiety shall be applied towards the Maintenance of the Poor of the said Parish.

Trustees not to hold any Place of Profit.

V. And be it further enacted, That no Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish shall, after the Twenty-fifth Day of May One thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, provide, supply, serve, or furnish any Beds, Bedding, Clothes, Victuals, or other Thing, for the Use of the Poor of the said Parish, but the same shall be bought and provided by the said Trustees.

When the Poor shall be provided for by the Trustees.

VI. Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall extend to prevent the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor, or any of them, from ordering the Persons with whom such Things shall be deposited to deliver to any poor Person, not in the Workhouse, Clothing or Victuals for their immediate Relief, and which Things such Person is hereby required to deliver pursuant to every such Order.

Churchwardens or Overseers may give immediate Relief to the Poor.

VII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful to and for the said Trustees to nominate and appoint under their Hands a fit Person, not being a Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish, for the Purpose of paying all such Sum and Sums of Money as shall be ordered to be paid for the Purpose of relieving the casual Poor of the said Parish, and shall take Security from such Person, and shall and may remove him at their Pleasure; and it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, or any of them, to give an Order for the Relief of such casual Poor, signed with his or their Hand or Hands, specifying therein the Sum or Sums of Money to be paid to such poor Person or Persons, which Money shall be immediately paid by the Person so to be appointed as aforesaid for that Purpose, who shall at the next Meeting of the Trustees produce and deliver to them the Vouchers for such Sum and Sums of Money that shall have been so expended as aforesaid.

Officer to be appointed to pay Money for Relief of casual Poor.

VIII. Pro.

Proviso.

VIII. Provided always, That no Person who shall be a Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish shall act in the Execution of the Office of paying Money for the Relief of the casual Poor; and that no Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish shall from and after the said Twenty-fifth Day of *May* One thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, pay or expend, or make any Charge or Demand for Money expended by him or them for the Relief of poor Persons.

Proviso.

IX. Provided also, That nothing herein contained shall extend to prevent the Churchwardens of the said Parish from paying Monies for the Repairs of the said Church, and otherwise relating to the Office of Churchwarden only.

First Meeting of Trustees.

X. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees shall and may meet together in the Vestry Room of the said Parish, or in such Place as shall be used as the Vestry Room, for the Time being, within One Calendar Month next after the said Twenty-fifth Day of *May* One thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, or as soon after as conveniently may be, between the Hours of Eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon and Eight of the Clock in the Evening, and proceed to put this Act into Execution; and then and from Time to Time afterwards shall adjourn themselves to meet, or may meet according to such Summons as is herein-after directed to be given, at such Time or Times, Place or Places, within the said Parish, as such Trustees shall think proper and convenient, and of each of which Adjournments Three Days Notice at least, in Writing or printed, and signed by the Clerk or Clerks to the said Trustees for the Time being, shall be given to or left for each of the said Trustees, resident within the said Parish, at their last or usual Place or Places of Abode; and if there shall not appear at any Meeting to be appointed to be held by virtue of this Act Five or more Trustees to act at such Meeting, and to adjourn to another Day, then and in such Case the said Clerk or Clerks shall and is and are hereby required to summon the Trustees resident within the said Parish to meet at the Place where the last Meeting was appointed to be held, within Fifteen Days next after the Day on which such Meeting was to have been held as aforesaid (such Summons to be signed by the said Clerk or Clerks, and to be delivered to or left at the last or usual Place of Abode of such Trustees Three Days at least before such Meeting); and in case the said Clerk or Clerks shall happen to die before such Summons shall issue, or shall refuse or neglect to issue such Summons, then the Churchwardens for the Time being shall and may, and they are hereby required, by Notice in Writing or printed, and signed by them, and given to or left at the last or usual Place of Abode of each Trustee resident within the said Parish, Three Days at least before such intended Meeting, to summon the Trustees to meet at the Place where the last Meeting was appointed to have been held, on any Day within Twenty-one Days of such last Default; and the Trustees at all their Meetings shall defray their own Expences.

Proceedings to be entered in a Book.

XI. And be it further enacted, That the Trustees at each Meeting shall choose One of the Trustees then present to be Chairman of such Meeting; and that all the Acts, Orders, Resolutions, and Proceedings of the Trustees, and all the Receipts and Payments and other Accounts whatsoever,

whatsoever, relating to the Execution of this Act, shall be entered by the Clerk or Clerks in a Book or Books to be provided and kept for that Purpose, and signed by the Chairman of each Meeting; and all and every Person and Persons, paying to the Rates and Assessments hereby authorized to be made, shall have Liberty to inspect and peruse the said Book or Books, at all seasonable Times, without Fee or Reward; which Book or Books may be produced and read in Evidence in all Courts and Places whatsoever.

XII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Act, Order, or Resolution of the Trustees shall be valid, final, and conclusive, unless done or made at some Public Meeting to be held pursuant to this Act, and confirmed by a Majority of Trustees present at the next subsequent Meeting; and that, after a Confirmation of any Act, Order, or Resolution, the same shall not be repealed or rescinded, unless by a Majority of a greater Number of Trustees present at some subsequent Meeting than were present at the doing of such Act, or making such Order or Resolution; nor shall any such Repeal (though made by a sufficient Number) be deemed effectual, unless confirmed by a Majority of the Trustees present at the next subsequent Meeting: And that all the Powers and Authorities by this Act granted to or vested in the said Trustees shall and may be exercised or executed by the major Part of them who shall attend at any Meeting to be held under or according to this Act, the Number of Trustees present at any such Meeting not being less than Five; and all the Acts, Orders, Resolutions, and Proceedings of such major Part so present, shall have the same Force and Effect as if done or made by all the Trustees; and that where the Number of Votes shall be equal, the Chairman to be appointed at each such Meeting shall have another and a deciding Vote.

No Act valid unless done at a Meeting.

Majority at Public Meeting to execute the Act, if Five be present.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That all such Trustees as are or shall be Aldermen or Justices of the Peace for the City of *London*, may act as Justices in the Execution of this Act, notwithstanding their being Trustees, except in Cases where they may be personally interested; and that in all Cases where any Justice or Justices of the Peace is or are hereby authorized to do any Act, Matter, or Thing, it shall be lawful for such Trustee or Trustees, being such Justice or Justices, to execute the same in the same Manner as he or they might have done if he or they had not been a Trustee or Trustees under this Act.

Trustees who are Justices may act as such.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees shall sue and be sued in the Name of the Treasurer or Treasurers, or Clerk or Clerks, for the Time being, to be appointed under this Act; and that no Action may be brought by or against the said Trustees, or any of them, in relation to this Act, in the Name of their Treasurer or Treasurers, Clerk or Clerks, shall abate or be discontinued by the Death or Removal of such Treasurer or Treasurers, Clerk or Clerks, or by the Act of him or them; without the Consent of the said Trustees; but the Treasurer or Treasurers, Clerk or Clerks, for the Time being, shall always be deemed Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, Defendant or Defendants, in every such Action, as the Case may be.

Trustees to sue and be sued in the Name of their Treasurer.

[*Loc. & Per.*]

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XV. Pro-

Treasurer
to be reim-
bursed his
Expences.

XV. Provided always, That all such Treasurers and Clerks shall be reimbursed, out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act, all such Costs and Damages as by the Event of any such Actions or Proceedings he or they shall be put unto, or become charged or chargeable with, by reason of his or their being so made Plaintiff or Defendant, Plaintiffs or Defendants therein.

Trustees to
appoint a
Treasurer and
other Officers.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Trustees from Time to Time to appoint, by Ballot, a Treasurer or Treasurers, without any Salary or Allowance for his or their Trouble in such Trust, and a Clerk or Clerks, and Collector or Collectors of the Rates, and such other Officers as they may judge necessary, and shall take such Security as they the said Trustees shall think proper from such Treasurers, Clerk, or Collector, and shall and may from Time to Time remove such Treasurers, Clerks, Collectors, and other Officers, and appoint, in like Manner, by Ballot, others in the Room and Stead of such of them as shall be so removed, or as shall die, or discontinue or resign his or their Office or Offices; and that the Trustees shall and may, out of the Monies arising by virtue of this Act, allow to all such Clerks, Collectors, or other Officers, except the Treasurer or Treasurers, such Salaries or other Allowances as they the said Trustees shall judge reasonable and proper.

Parishioners
to meet to
ascertain Mo-
nies to be
raised.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, or the major Part of them, together with the Parishioners of the said Parish paying to the Rates or Assessments to be made by virtue of this Act, are hereby authorized and required to assemble and meet together in the Vestry Room of the said Parish, on *Thursday* in *Easter* Week, or within Ten Days after, or oftener, in every Year, as Occasion may require, Notice whereof shall be given the *Sunday* next preceding such Meeting in the Church of the said Parish, in Manner aforesaid; and the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Parishioners, or the major Part of them so assembled, shall ascertain the Sum or Sums of Money necessary to be raised within the Limits of the said Parish for the Relief of the Poor, and other Ends and Purposes of this Act.

Parishioners
to make an
equal Pound
Rate.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Parishioners of the said Parish, shall assemble and meet together in the said Parish Church within Thirty Days next after the said Sum or Sums of Money shall have been ascertained as aforesaid, due Notice having been given in the said Parish Church on the preceding *Sunday* before such Meeting in Manner aforesaid, and at such Meeting and Meetings shall and are hereby required to make and sign one general equal Pound Rate or Assessment for and towards the Relief of the Poor and other the Ends and Purposes of this Act, upon all and every Person and Persons who do or shall inhabit, hold, occupy, or enjoy any Land, House, Shop, Warehouse, Coach House, Stable, Cellar, Vault, or any other Building, Tenement, or Hereditament, within the said Parish, and on every other Person and Persons who by Law is, are, or shall be chargeable or liable to be assessed or for towards the Relief of the Poor, as the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Inhabitants

of the said Parish, at such Meeting and Meetings shall think necessary and proper; which said Rates or Assessments so to be made shall be made and laid according to the yearly Rent or yearly Value of the Premises, as the same shall be ascertained and shall be allowed by the Alderman of the Ward, or by Two Aldermen of the City of *London*, and Notice thereof shall be given in the Church on the *Sunday* next after the same shall be allowed.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That if the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Parishioners of the said Parish, shall refuse or neglect to assemble and meet together, or, having so met, shall refuse or neglect to ascertain such Sum or Sums of Money in the Manner hereinbefore prescribed, or shall refuse or neglect, within Thirty Days after such Meeting, to make such Rates or Assessments as aforesaid, or in case such Rates or Assessments shall be deficient to answer the Purposes of this Act, that then and in any of the said Cases, and as often as it shall happen, it shall and may be lawful for the said Trustees, or any Ten or more of them, and they are hereby required, to meet in the Vestry Room or at the Workhouse of the said Parish, as they shall appoint for that Purpose, Notice thereof having been first given on the *Sunday* next preceding such Meeting in the Church of the said Parish in Manner aforesaid, and then and there make one or more general Pound Rate or Assessment, in Manner aforesaid, for and towards the Relief of the Poor and other the Purposes of this Act, and therein equitably and proportionably rate and assess all and every Person and Persons who do or shall inhabit, hold, or occupy any Land, House, Shop, Warehouse, Tenement, Coach House, Stable, Cellar, Vault, or any other Building or Hereditament within the said Parish, and any other Person or Persons who by Law, or under this Act, are chargeable or assessable for and towards the Relief of the Poor, as the said Trustees, or any Ten or more of them, at such Meeting or Meetings; shall think fit and proper to be rated and assessed; which said Rates or Assessments so to be made and signed by the said Trustees, or any Ten or more of them, shall be allowed by the Alderman of the Ward, or by Two Aldermen of the City of *London*, and Notice thereof shall be given in the said Parish Church some *Sunday* after Morning Prayers before such Rate shall be collected.

Parishioners neglecting to make Assessments, Trustees may.

XX. And be it further enacted, That the Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, so to be made by the said Trustees, or any Ten or more of them, shall be deemed and taken to be good, valid, and effectual, and shall and may be collected and levied in like Manner as if the same had been ascertained and made by the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Parishioners, assembled as aforesaid; any Law, Statute, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Rates so to be made by the said Trustees shall be valid.

XXI. And be it further enacted, That no Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, for the Relief of the Poor, shall be made or assessed within the said Parish, other than as in and by this Act directed, after the said Twenty-fifth Day of *May*, in the Year One thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, or within Forty Days after.

No Rates to be made contrary to this Act.

XXII. And be it further enacted, That all and every Person and Persons, whether Owner, Lessee, Landlord, Renter, or Tenant, who shall

The Owners of divided Houses to be answerable for Rates.

let his or her House, Tenement, or other Premises, within the said Parish ready furnished, or in Parcels or separate Apartments, or in Lodgings furnished or unfurnished, shall be deemed the Occupier thereof, and shall be subject to and be rated to and pay the Poor Rates, and all the Parochial Rates and Taxes of the said Parish, which Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, shall be paid by the Person or Persons renting or occupying any such ready-furnished House, or any such Parcel or separate Apartments, or ready-furnished Lodgings, or unfurnished Lodgings, and the Person or Persons, Occupier or Occupiers, of whom the same shall be demanded, is and are hereby authorized and required to pay such Sum and Sums of Money as shall be rated or assessed upon the Owner, Lessee, Landlord, Renter, or Tenant, and to deduct the same out of his, her, or their respective Rent or Rents; and such Owner, Lessee, Landlord, Renter, or Tenant is and are hereby respectively required to allow such Payment upon the Receipt of the Residue of his, her, or their respective Rent or Rents; and every such Person or Persons, Occupier or Occupiers, paying such Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, shall be acquitted and discharged of and for so much of his, her, or their Rent or Rents, as the said Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, so paid by him, her, or them, shall amount unto, as if the same had been actually paid to the Person or Persons to whom his or her Rent shall be due and payable; and in default of Payment of the said Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, the same shall be and remain a Charge upon the Premises in respect whereof the same shall be so rated or assessed, and shall and may be recovered of and from such Owner, Lessee, Landlord, Renter, or Tenant respectively, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, or within the said City of *London*, to be commenced and prosecuted by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the Time being, or one of them; in which Action or Suit no Protection, Essoin, or Wager of Law, or more than one Impar lance, shall be allowed: Provided always, that no such Tenant or Occupier of any separate Apartment of any House or Houses, or ready-furnished House, shall, by the Payment of such Rate or Assessment in Manner aforesaid, be deemed to acquire any Settlement in the said Parish by such Payment, but that the Landlord or Owner shall be deemed and construed to all Intents and Purposes to have paid the same; any Law, Statute, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Lodgers not to obtain any Settlement by Payment of Rates.

Agreement between Landlord and Tenant not to be altered.

Clerk to make Entries in Books to be signed by the Trustees.

XXIII. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That this Act shall not affect or alter any Agreement between Landlord and Tenant as to the Payment of Parochial Rates within the said Parish.

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That the said Clerk or Clerks shall and he and they is and are hereby required to make proper Entries in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose, and signed by the said Trustees who shall have made such Rates and Assessments respectively, of all and singular the Rates and Assessments which shall be made in pursuance of this Act; to which Book or Books every Person liable to pay the said Rates or Assessments may have free Access at all convenient Times, and be permitted to peruse, inspect, and take Copies of the same, without Fee or Reward.

XXV. And

XXV. And be it further enacted, That in case any Person or Persons charged with any such Rate or Assessment shall refuse or neglect to pay the Money rated or assessed upon him; her, or them respectively, it shall be lawful for any One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the City of London, and he and they is and are hereby authorized and required, to summon, by Writing under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, all and every Person and Persons so charged, who shall have so refused or neglected as aforesaid, (on Oath being made before such Justice or Justices, by the Collector or Collectors for the Time being, of his or their having attended upon or at the Place or Places of Abode of such Person or Persons then intended to be summoned, and having demanded the Rate or Rates, and of such Person or Persons having refused or neglected to pay the same), to appear before such Justice or Justices, at a Time and Place to be mentioned in such Summons (Service by such Collector or Collectors, or any of the Constables of the said Parish, of every such Summons, either by delivering the same to the Person or Persons thereby intended to be summoned, or leaving the same at his, her, or their last or usual Place of Abode, to be deemed good Service); and if any Person or Persons, so summoned shall refuse or neglect to attend at the Time and Place mentioned in such Summons or Summonses, or if he, she, or they do or shall attend, and shall not make it appear to such Justice or Justices that he, she, or they is or are not chargeable with such Rate or Rates, according to this Act, then all and every the Persons and Person who shall have been so summoned shall pay as well such Rate as the reasonable Costs and Charges of such Summons; and in all Cases where the said Rate or Assessment, Costs and Charges, shall not be paid upon the Return of such Summons, it shall be lawful for such Justice or Justices who shall have issued the same, and he and they is and are hereby authorized and required, on Oath being made before him or them of the same, and of due Service of such Summons or Summonses as aforesaid, to grant a Warrant or Warrants under his or their Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals, authorizing and directing such Collector or Collectors, or any Constable or Constables of the said Parish, to levy all such Rates or Assessments, and all Arrears thereof, and the Expence of the Summons and of the Warrant, by Distress of the Goods and Chattels of the Party so neglecting or refusing, which shall be found either in the said Parish or elsewhere, such Warrant, if such Goods and Chattels shall not be found within the Limits of the Jurisdiction of the Justices granting the same, being first countersigned by some Justice or Justices of the Peace for the County, City, or Liberty, where such Goods and Chattels shall be; and if, within Five Days next after any such Distress shall be so made, the said Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, and the Costs and Charges of the said Summons, Warrant, and of such Distress, and of keeping such Goods and Chattels, shall not be paid and satisfied, it shall be lawful for such Collector or Collectors, Constable or Constables, to cause the said Goods and Chattels, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient, to be appraised by One or more Appraiser or Appraisers, and sold to pay the said Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, together with such Arrears of Costs, Charges, and Expences as aforesaid, returning the Overplus of the Money arising by such Sale, and what shall remain unsold, (if any), to the Owner or Owners of the Goods and Chattels respectively on De-

Recovery of Rates.

[Loc. & Per.]

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Power to sue
for Rates,
Penalties, and
Fines.

mand thereof made by him, her, or them: Provided always, that the said Trustees may, if they shall think proper, sue in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, for all or any of the Rates or Assessments to be made under this Act, and for all or any of the Forfeitures, Fines, or Penalties, imposed by this Act, or to be imposed under the Authority of the same, except where the Demand does not amount to Ten Pounds, or upwards, in which Action or Suit no Effoin, Privilege, Protection, or Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance, shall be allowed; and all such Forfeitures, Fines, and Penalties, as may be received or recovered by the said Trustees, or their Treasurer or Treasurers, shall be applied for the general Purposes of this Act.

Persons ag-
grieved may
appeal.

XXVI. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall think himself, herself, or themselves, aggrieved or over-rated by any Rate or Assessment made under this Act, he, she, or they, may appeal and complain thereof to the said Trustees, who may examine the Appellant or Appellants, and any Witness or Witnesses, upon Oath, to be administered by the said Trustees, touching or concerning the Matter of such Appeal, and relieve the Person or Persons appealing or not, and make such Order therein, as to them shall seem meet.

Collectors to
account.

XXVII. And be it further enacted, That the Collector or Collectors, to be appointed under and by virtue of this Act, shall, from Time to Time, when required, give in a particular, true, and perfect Account, in Writing, under his or their Hand or respective Hands, to the said Trustees, (on Oath, if required, which Oath the Trustees may administer), of all Monies which he or they shall have respectively received, collected, or levied, by virtue of this Act, or by Reason or Means of the said Office, and shall from Time to Time, when thereunto required by the said Trustees, pay all such Monies as shall be in his, their, or any of their Hands, to the said Trustees, or to such Person or Persons as they shall by any Writing or Writings under their Hands, authorize and empower to receive the same; and if any such Collector or Collectors as aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse to make such Accounts and Payments as are required to be made by him or them respectively by this Act, then any Two Justices of the Peace for the said City of *London*, shall and may, upon Complaint thereof, make Enquiry of and concerning such Neglect or Refusal, as well by the Confession of the Parties themselves as by the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses; and if any such Collector or Collectors shall be convicted of such Neglect or Refusal before Two such Justices of the Peace, then the said Justices shall, upon Conviction, commit the Person or Persons so offending to the Common Gaol of the City of *London*, there to remain, without Bail or Mainprize, until he or they shall have made a true and perfect Account and Payment as aforesaid: Provided always, that in case any such Collector or Collectors shall, at any Time or Times, without having received such Notice or Request, have in his or their Hands any Sum or Sums of Money above the Sum of Fifty Pounds, to be collected by virtue of this Act, for the Space of Forty-eight Hours, without paying the same over to the said Trustees, or to such Person or Persons as they shall have directed or appointed to receive the same, every such Collector or Collectors shall for every such Neglect or Omission, forfeit any Sum not exceeding Thirty Pounds, nor less than Ten Pounds.

Penalty on
Collectors not
paying over
the Money
when amount-
ing to Fifty
Pounds.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted; That all Costs, Charges, and Expences of passing this Act, and all other Charges incident to the obtaining thereof, or incurred in relation thereto, shall be borne, paid, and defrayed, out of the First Monies which shall arise by virtue of this Act.

Paying Expences of this Act.

XXIX. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees shall and may order and direct the Treasurer or Treasurers, from Time to Time, to pay such Sum and Sums of Money as they shall think necessary for the Purposes of this Act, and the Use of the said Parish; and the said Treasurer and Treasurers are hereby authorized and required to pay the same from Time to Time accordingly; which Sum or Sums so paid shall be allowed him or them in his or their Accounts respectively.

Treasurer to pay Money to Trustees Order.

XXX. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, shall, and they are hereby empowered to purchase or contract and agree from Time to Time, as they shall think fit, with any Person or Persons, for all Provisions, Necessaries, and Materials, of what Kind soever, which shall be used or brought into the said Workhouse, or for the Use of the Poor, and also to contract or agree for the lodging, keeping, maintaining, or employing, any or all such Poor of the said Parish, Four Days previous Notice being given in One or more of the Public Daily Newspapers, and also on the principal Door of the said Parish Church, of the Time and Place of making such Contract; and the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, shall pay or order the Payment of the Monies due, or to become due, upon such Contracts and Agreements, to the Person or Persons entitled to receive the same, out of the Monies to be raised and collected by Authority of this Act.

Trustees may contract for Provisions, &c. for the Workhouse.

XXXI. And be it further enacted, That the Expences of any Poor Child or Children of the Parish, which shall be necessary to be sent into the Country or other Place to nurse, or for their Clothes or Maintenance, together with the Expence of their Conveyance, shall be paid out of the Monies arising by virtue of this Act.

Expences of nursing Infant-Poor how to be paid.

XXXII. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, may and they are hereby empowered to contract and agree with any Person or Persons for the nursing, maintaining, and keeping such Child and Children; and the said Trustees, or any Nine or more of them, shall put them out or otherwise provide for them, and take such Order for the Care of and providing for the said Children, as they or any Nine or more of them shall think proper.

Trustees to contract for nursing Children.

XXXIII. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall knowingly buy or receive into Pawn, any of the Clothes or Wearing Apparel, or any of the Victuals or Provisions, of any of the Poor who shall be maintained, clothed, or victualled in the Workhouse of the said Parish, or who shall knowingly buy or receive into Pawn, any of the Goods or Materials carried into the said Workhouse, or any other House or Place, in order to be wrought up, manufactured, or used, by the Poor of the said Parish, or any of the Goods and Furniture of the said Workhouse, the Person or Persons so offending, and being thereof

Penalty on Persons receiving any Clothes, &c. belonging to the Workhouse.

convicted

convicted by his, her, or their own Confession, or by the Oath of any One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before any Justice or Justices of the Peace for the City of *London*, (which Oath such Justice and Justices is and are hereby authorized and required to administer), shall, for every such Offence forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds, nor less than Five Pounds, One Moiety whereof shall go to the Informer, and the other Moiety to the Use of the Poor of the said Parish.

Against conveying Spirituous Liquors into the Workhouse.

XXXIV. And be it further enacted, That if any Person shall carry or bring, or endeavour to carry or bring, any Spirituous or strong Liquors into the said Workhouse, without the special Order of the Master or Mistres of the said Workhouse for that Purpose first had and obtained, it shall be lawful for the said Master or Mistres of the said Workhouse; or his or their Servant, to apprehend such Person or Persons, and to take him, her, or them, before a Justice of the Peace for the said City of *London*, who is hereby empowered to hear and determine such Offence in a summary Way, and if, by the Oath of One credible Witness, or otherwise, such Justice shall convict such Person or Persons of such Offence, he shall forthwith commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction or Compter, there to be kept in Custody for any Time not exceeding One Calendar Month, and not less than Seven Days, without Bail or Mainprize, unless such Offender shall immediately pay down such Sum and Sums of Money, not exceeding Five Pounds, and not less than Forty Shillings, as such Justice shall impose upon such Offenders severally as their Fines for such Offence, One Moiety thereof to be paid to the Informer, and the other Moiety to the Use of the Poor of the said Parish; and all Persons having the Care or Management of the said Workhouse; are hereby required to prohibit and prevent the drinking of spirituous or strong Liquors within the said Workhouse by any poor Person therein.

Encouragement may be given to the industrious Poor.

XXXV. And, to the End that the poor People in the said Workhouse may be encouraged to apply themselves with Diligence to the Work in or upon which they shall be employed, be it further enacted, That, out of the Profits arising from any Work which shall be done by any such poor Person, such Gratuities or Rewards may be distributed to the industrious and skilful, according to the Quantity and Perfection of their Work, as to the said Trustees shall appear reasonable and proper; and that the Remainder of the Profits, which shall from Time to Time arise from the Work which shall be done by such poor Persons, shall be paid to the Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Trustees, and applied in Aid of the Rates or Assessments.

Power to punish the Parish Poor, who shall refuse to work, or shall swear, &c.

XXXVI. And be it further enacted, That, if any poor Person or Persons, who shall be maintained in the Workhouse or Workhouses of the said Parish, shall refuse to work, or be guilty of profane cursing and swearing, or otherwise misbehave him or herself, that then, and in such Case, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Trustees to cause such Person or Persons so offending to be punished in such Workhouse, either by moderate Correction, Confinement, distinguishing them in Dress, Diet, or such other Method as may best tend to remedy such Offences for the future, without committing such Offender to the House of Correction.

or

or other Prison; any Law, Statute, or Usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

XXXVII. And whereas Part of the Rules of the *Fleet* Prison are situate within the said Parish of *Saint Bridget*, otherwise *Saint Bride*, and great Number of Prisoners are permitted to live out of the said Prison, called *The Fleet Prison*, but within the said Rules thereof, in the said Parish of *Saint Bridget*, otherwise *Saint Bride*, many of whom with large Families, and in distressed Circumstances rent Houses or Parts of Houses unfurnished, or Lodgings ready-furnished, which making them liable to be rated and to pay Parish Rates and Taxes, they would thereby gain Settlements; and many of which Prisoners and their Families have become chargeable to the said Parish, and of course grievous Burthens on the Inhabitants thereof, and also many Persons gain Settlements in the said Parish by living as yearly hired Servants with Prisoners residing within the said Rules of the said *Fleet* Prison, in the said Parish of *Saint Bridget*, otherwise *Saint Bride*, several of which Servants, being Women of bad Character, become, together with their Bastard Children, chargeable to the said Parish: Be it therefore further enacted, That, from and after the passing of this Act, no Person or Persons whomsoever, now a Prisoner or Prisoners, or who may hereafter become a Prisoner or Prisoners, in the said Prison of the *Fleet*, shall gain a Settlement in the said Parish of *Saint Bridget*, otherwise *Saint Bride*, by renting a House or Part of a House, or Lodging, furnished or unfurnished, or any other Premises whatsoever, within the Rules of the said Prison in the said Parish, or by being rated to, and paying any Rates or Taxes for the same, whilst he she, or they, shall be such Prisoner or Prisoners; nor shall any Person or Persons gain or be adjudged or deemed to gain a Settlement within the said Parish, for, by, or by reason or on account of living, or having lived or resided, with any Prisoner or Prisoners, in or within the Rules of the *Fleet* Prison, as or in the Capacity of a hired Servant, or indented Servant; any Statute, Usage, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Part of the Rules of the Fleet situate in the Parish;

and the Families of Parishioners in the said Prison become chargeable to the Parish.

Prisoners not to gain a Settlement in the said Parish by Means of renting Houses or Lodgings; or being rated to the Poor; nor hired nor indented Servants.

XXXVIII. And be it further enacted, That all Penalties and Forfeitures imposed by this Act, and the Costs and Charges of the Recovery thereof, (except where any other Mode of Recovery is hereby provided), shall be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant or Warrants under the Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals of One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the said City of *London*; which Warrant or Warrants such Justice or Justices is and are hereby empowered and required to grant on the Confession of the Party or Parties, or upon the Information of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses upon Oath, and the Informer is hereby rendered a competent Witness; and all Penalties and Forfeitures, when so recovered, shall be paid by the Treasurer or Treasurers to the said Trustees for the Time being; and, if no such Goods or Chattels of such Offender or Offenders can be found, sufficient to answer and satisfy such Penalties and Forfeitures, and the Charges of Distress and Sale, then it shall be lawful for such Justice or Justices, and he and they is and are hereby authorized and required, by Warrant or Warrants under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, to commit every such Offender to the common Gaol of the City of *London*, there to remain without Bail or

Penalties and Forfeitures how to be recovered and applied.

[Loc. & Per.]

T

Mainprize

Mainprize for any Time not exceeding Six Weeks, nor less than Seven Days, unless such Penalties and Forfeitures, and all reasonable Charges, shall be sooner fully paid and satisfied.

Inhabitants
may be Wit-
nesses.

XXXIX: And be it further enacted, That any Inhabitant or Inhabitants of the said Parish shall and may, and he and they is and are hereby declared to be a competent Witness or Witnesses in any Action, Suit, Complaint, Prosecution, or Proceeding, to be had, conducted, made, prosecuted, or carried on, under the Authority of this Act, in such and the same Manner as he or they would or might have been if he or they was or were resident in any other Parish or Place.

Distress not
to be deemed
unlawful for
Want of
Form.

XL. And be it further enacted, That, where any Distress shall be made for any Money by virtue of this Act, the Distress itself shall not be deemed unlawful, nor the Party or Parties making the same be deemed a Trespasser or Trespassers, on Account of any Default, or Want of Form, in any Proceedings relating thereto; nor shall the Party or Parties distraining be deemed a Trespasser or Trespassers *ab initio* on Account of any Irregularity which shall afterwards be done by the Party or Parties distraining; but the Person or Persons aggrieved by such Irregularity may recover full Satisfaction for the special Damage in an Action on the Case: Provided always, That no Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall recover in any Action or Actions for any such Irregularity, Trespass, or other Proceedings, if Tender of sufficient Amends shall be made by or on the Behalf of the Party or Parties who shall have committed any such Irregularity, Trespass, or other wrongful Proceedings, before such Action brought; and, in case no Tender shall have been made, it shall be lawful for the Defendant or Defendants in any such Action, by Leave of the Court where such Action shall depend, at any Time before Issue joined, to pay into Court such Sum of Money as he or they shall think fit, whereupon such Proceedings, Order, and Judgment, shall be made, had, and given, in and by such Court, as in other Actions where the Defendant is allowed to pay Money into Court.

Plaintiff not
to recover, if
Tender of
Amends has
been made.

Proceedings
not to be
vacated for
Want of
Form.

XLI. And be it further enacted, That no Proceedings to be had touching the Conviction of any Offender or Offenders against this Act, or any Order made in any other Matter or Thing done or transacted, in or relating to the Execution of this Act, shall be vacated or quashed for Want of Form, or be removed or removeable by *Certiorari*, or any other Writ or Process whatsoever, into any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*.

General
Appeal.

XLII. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall find himself or themselves aggrieved by any Order, Direction, or Appointment of the said Trustees, or by Means of the said Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, or any Order or Conviction of One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace, it shall be lawful for such Person or Persons to appeal to the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held in and for the said City of *London*, before the Justices then and there assembled; and they are hereby authorized to summon and examine Witnesses upon Oath, and to hear and determine the Matter of the said Appeal, and make such Order therein as to them shall seem meet,

which Order shall be final and conclusive to and upon all Parties, but so as such Appeal shall be made within One Calendar Month next after the Cause of Complaint shall have arisen, and so as the Person or Persons so appealing shall first give, or cause to be given, Ten Days Notice at the least, in Writing, of his, her, or their Intention of appealing as aforesaid, and of the Matter or Cause thereof, to the Churchwardens for the Time being of the said Parish, and shall, within Three Days next after such Notice, enter into a Recognizance before One of the Justices of the Peace of the said City, with Two sufficient Sureties, conditioned to try such Appeal, and abide the Order of such Sessions, and pay such Costs as shall be made and awarded thereon, and such Justices, upon hearing and finally determining the Matter of such Appeal, are hereby authorized to award such Costs to the Party or Parties appealing, or appealed against, as they shall think proper.

XLIII. And be it further enacted, That no Action or Suit shall be commenced against any Person or Persons for any Thing done in pursuance or under Colour of this Act, until Ten Days Notice shall be given thereof, in Writing, to the Clerk or Clerks to the said Trustees, nor after sufficient Satisfaction, or Tender thereof, hath been made to the Party or Parties aggrieved, nor after Three Calendar Months next after the Fact committed for which such Action or Actions, Suit or Suits, shall be so brought; and every such Action shall be brought, laid, and tried in the said City of *London*, and not in any other City, County, or Place; and the Defendant or Defendants in every such Action or Suit may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and every special Matter in Evidence at any Trial or Trials to be had thereupon; and if the Matter or Thing shall appear to have been done under or by virtue of this Act, or if it shall appear that such Action or Suit was brought before Ten Days Notice thereof given as aforesaid, or if any such Action or Suit shall not be commenced within the Time before limited, or shall be laid in any other City, County, or Place, than as aforesaid, then the Jury or Juries shall find for the Defendant or Defendants therein; and if a Verdict or Verdicts shall be found for such Defendant or Defendants, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs in such Action or Actions, Suit or Suits, shall become Nonsuit, or suffer a Discontinuance of such Action or Actions, or if, upon any Demurrer or Demurrers in such Action or Actions, Judgment shall be given for the Defendant or Defendants therein, then and in any of the Cases aforesaid, such Defendant or Defendants shall have Treble Costs, and shall have such Remedy for recovering the same as any Defendant or Defendants may have for his, her, or their Costs, in any other Cases by Law.

Limitation of
Actions.

XLIV. And be it further enacted and declared, That all and singular the Rates and Impositions payable and recoverable by virtue of and under the Provisions of this present Act, shall (except where a different Application is hereby prescribed or authorized) be applied in the Manner in which the Rates and Impositions, payable or recoverable for the Benefit of the Poor of the Parish of *Saint Bridget*, otherwise *Saint Bride*, were payable or applicable previously to the passing this Act.

Application
of the Rates
and Imposi-
tions in Cases
not provided
for by this
Act.

XLV. And

Publick Act. XLV. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be taken and allowed in all Courts of Justice as a Publick Act; and all Judges, Justices, and others, are hereby required to take Notice thereof as such, without being specially pleaded.

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