

C H A P.  
XXIX.

To qualify as  
trustees for  
the poor, by  
taking the  
oaths to the  
government,  
and oath of  
office.

Mode of qua-  
lification.

Invested with  
power and  
authority as a  
body politic.

And to use a  
common seal  
in their busi-  
ness, &c.

And to make  
laws, &c. for  
the better re-  
lief of the  
poor, and pu-  
nishing va-  
grants, &c.

Proviso.

In case of  
death or re-  
moval of any  
of the said

and Nathaniel Magruder. For Worcester county, Messieurs Parker Selby, George Hayward, Peter Chaille, Lemuel Purnell, and William Whittington. For Frederick county, Messieurs Jonathan Wilson, Upton Sheredine, Thomas Bowles, Charles Beatty, and William Beatty. For Charles county, Messieurs Samuel Hanson, jun. Robert Mastin, John Hanson, Thomas M'Pherson, and Henry Smith Hawkins. The which persons, so nominated, appointed, authorized and named, for the several and respective counties as aforesaid, or the major part of them, in case of the death or absence of any, are hereby required, with all convenient speed, to meet at such places within their counties as to them shall seem meet, to qualify themselves for the office of trustees for the poor of their several and respective counties, which they are to do by taking the several oaths appointed by law to be taken to the government, signing the oath of abjuration, and repeating and signing the test, and also taking the following oath, to wit, "I, A. B. do swear, that I will duly and faithfully discharge the duties and trusts committed to me, as a trustee for the poor for \_\_\_\_\_ county, according to the best of my skill and knowledge, and an act of assembly, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor within the several counties therein mentioned: So help me God." The which oaths are to be administered by any of the four persons last named for the county to the person first named, or, in his absence, to any one of the three persons first named that shall be there present, the which person, being sworn as aforesaid, shall administer the oaths aforementioned to all the rest, and so successively, the person first named, that shall be present, shall always administer the said oaths to any that have been absent, or that shall hereafter be elected and chosen, pursuant to the directions of this act, to supply the place of any that shall be dead, or removed out of the county, or of any who shall refuse or neglect to qualify and act as a trustee, when elected and chosen, pursuant to the directions of this act; and the aforesaid persons, or the major part of them, being sworn as aforesaid, shall be constituted and qualified as trustees for the poor of their said county, and, as such, are hereby invested with full power and authority, as a body politic, to plead and be impleaded, to sue and be sued, to defend and be defended, to answer and be answered, by the name of the trustees for the poor, in all and every cause, complaint and action, real, personal or mixt, of whatsoever kind or nature it shall be, in any of the courts of judicature within this province, and by that name they, and any of them, and their successors, shall, and they are hereby enabled to take, hold, possess and enjoy, any gift, donation or present, which shall or may hereafter be given, devised or bequeathed, by any person or persons whatsoever, to them, or any of them, for or towards the support and maintenance of the poor in any of the counties aforesaid; and they, or any of them, may receive, by way of subscription, any sum or sums of money, which shall or may be given, for the better and more speedy promoting the benefit and good by this act intended; and that they have full power, authority, lawful capacity and ability, to purchase, take, hold, receive, enjoy and have, to them and their successors for ever, any lands, tenements and hereditaments, not exceeding the yearly value of one thousand pounds, of any person or persons whatsoever, and are hereby empowered and authorized, to use one common seal in their business relating to the said corporation, and the same, at their pleasure, to change and alter; and that the said persons so incorporated, the longest livers and successors of them, shall be the true, sole and undoubted trustees, in perpetual succession, for ever, to be continued in way and manner hereafter specified, with full and absolute power, liberty and authority, in the making and ordaining such laws, orders and rules, for the better relieving, regulating, and setting the poor to work, and punishing vagrants, beggars, vagabonds and other offenders, and for the good government of the said alms and work-house in their respective counties, as to them and their successors shall, from time to time, seem most fit and requisite; all which shall be observed by the overseer of such alms and work-house, and by all poor, beggars, vagrants, vagabonds and other offenders, in such alms and work-house, under the penalties therein contained. Provided always, That the said rules, laws and orders, be no wise contrary to the laws of this province.

V. And, to perpetuate the succession of the aforementioned number of five trustees for the poor, in each of the said counties, **Be it enacted**, That as often as any one or more of the said trustees for the poor shall die, or remove himself  
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