

matter or thing by him or them done and executed in pursuance and execution of this act, or of any matter or thing in this act contained, such person or persons shall and may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence, for his or her defence; and if upon trial a verdict shall pass for the defendant or defendants, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become non-suit, or discontinue his or their suit, then such defendant or defendants shall have and recover treble costs to him or them awarded against such plaintiff or plaintiffs; and if the plaintiff or plaintiffs is or are unable to satisfy the same, then it shall be paid and satisfied by the attorney who brought such suit, unless the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall give security for the costs, to be approved by the court in which such suit is brought.

SEC. 21. *And*, to prevent individuals from being unreasonably burthened with the execution of this act as trustees for the poor; *Be it enacted*, That at the time of the meeting of the said trustees for the poor in the first week of November yearly, the said trustees, or the major part of them, in the said county, shall and may elect and choose one of the principal inhabitants of said county, to be a trustee for the poor of said county in the stead of the first named or eldest of the said trustees of the said county, which said first named or eldest trustee shall be, and is by virtue hereof, thencefrom discharged from his office.

One trustee to be chosen annually, &c.

SEC. 22. *And be it enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the trustees aforesaid, or a major part of them, to rent an house or houses in the said county for the reception of such poor, vagrants, vagabonds or offenders, with the necessary lot or lots of ground adjoining to such house or houses, as convenient to the court-house in said county as may be, for the reception and accommodation of the said poor, vagrants, vagabonds and offenders, until a sufficient sum of money be raised in virtue of this act to enable the said trustees to purchase the land and erect the buildings herein before mentioned; and the justices of said county are hereby empowered and enjoined, annually, at the court for laying the county rate, to assess on the taxable property of the said county a sufficient sum to discharge the rent aforesaid, with the collector's commission of six per cent. thereon; which sum, so as aforesaid assessed, shall be collected and paid by the collector of said county to the said trustees, or a majority of them, to be by them applied to the purposes aforesaid; and the said trustees, or the major part of them, are hereby empowered and required, as soon as such house or houses aforesaid are procured on rent, to proceed to the appointment of an overseer, and other officers and servants as are mentioned in this act, and to do and perform every other matter and thing necessary to carrying the said

Trustees to rent a house &c.