

CHAP. 102.

Sheriffs, &c. to assist trustees when required.

Persons sued may plead general issue

Trustees to be classed.

Proviso.

Act to be in force after 1st April.

When deemed expedient, trustees may purchase land

Proviso

In a certain event may sell poor-house &c.

17. AND BE IT ENACTED. That all sheriffs, constables, and other officers and ministers of justice in said county, when called on, shall aid and assist the said trustees, and all such officers as shall be appointed and employed by them, at all times when necessary in the execution and performance of the duties required by this act.

18. AND BE IT ENACTED. That if any person or persons shall at any time or times be sued or prosecuted for any matter or thing by him or them done and executed in pursuance of this act, or of any matter or thing in this act contained, such person or persons may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence for his or their defence, and if upon trial a verdict shall be given for the defendant or defendants, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall be nonsuit, 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.

19. AND, to prevent individuals from being unreasonably burthened with this act as trustee of the poor, BE IT ENACTED, That at the time of the meeting of the said trustees for the poor on the first Monday of April next, and on the same day yearly and every year thereafter, the said trustees shall proceed to class themselves in such manner as to them shall seem most proper and convenient, so as no person shall be compelled to serve more than two years out of five, the first class going out at the end of the first year, and so in rotation each and every year; *Provided*, nothing herein contained shall prevent any person from serving as a trustee after his time has expired if he may see proper, and shall be re-elected, which election shall take place on the first Monday of April in each and every year after the first year.

20. AND BE IT ENACTED, That this act shall take place, and be in full force on and after the first Monday of April next.

21. BE IT ENACTED. That whenever the trustees, or a majority of them, shall deem it expedient and for the interest of the inhabitants of Caroline county, and the comfort of the poor, it shall be lawful for them, or a majority of them, to purchase and hold in trust for the purposes herein mentioned, a tract or parcel of land and premises not to exceed five hundred acres, and to erect thereon at their discretion proper buildings and improvements for the accommodation of the poor, and a work-house, the cost of which shall not exceed six thousand dollars, which shall be paid by the inhabitants of Caroline county, to be levied and collected as other county charges are; *Provided nevertheless*, that not exceeding one thousand dollars per annum shall be levied and collected in any one year, until the whole sum is levied and collected, and paid over to the trustees or their order.

22. BE IT ENACTED, That the trustees, or a majority, shall have full power and authority, at any time after having made arrangements for the accommodation of the poor as before prescribed, to sell and dispose of the present poor-house, and lands and premises, with all the appertences thereto belonging, at public auction, or otherwise at their discretion, for the best price which can be obtained, and when the sale is so made, to make and execute a deed of bargain and sale to the purchaser or purchasers, conveying the same to him or them in fee simple.