

C H A P.
LVII.

appointed by law to be taken to the government, and subscribing a declaration of their belief in the christian religion, and also taking the following oath, viz. "I, A. B. do swear or affirm, that I will duly and faithfully discharge the duties and trusts committed to me as a trustee for the poor of ——— by an act of the general assembly, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor in Dorchester and Somerset counties, according to the best of my skill and knowledge. So help me God;" the which oaths are to be administered by any of the six persons last named for the county to the person first named, or in his absence to any one of the five 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 if any who shall refuse or neglect to qualify, or be rendered incapable of acting as a trustee when elected and chosen pursuant to the directions of this act; and the aforesaid persons, or the majority of them, being sworn as aforesaid, shall be constituted and qualified as trustees of 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 of the poor of Dorchester and Somerset counties, in all and every cause, complaint and action, real, personal or mixed, of whatever kind or nature it shall be, in any court of judicature within this state, 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 the said county, 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 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 five hundred pounds current money, and are hereby empowered and authorized to use one common seal in their business relating to the said corporation, and the same, if necessary, to change and alter, and that the said persons so incorporated, or the longest livers and successors of them, shall be the true and undoubted trustees in perpetual succession for ever, to be continued in way and name 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 offenders, and for the good government of the said alms and work-house in their said county, as to them and their successors shall from time to time think 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 offenders, in such alms and work-houses, under the penalties therein contained; provided always, that the said rules, laws and orders, be no ways contrary to the laws of this state.

IV. And, to perpetuate the succession of the aforesaid number of seven trustees for each of the said counties, *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That as often as any one of the said trustees for the poor, in either of the said counties, shall die or remove himself out of the county, refuse to qualify by taking and subscribing the oaths or affirmations, and subscribing the declaration aforesaid, or become incapable of acting, the trustees for the time being, then surviving and remaining within

How vacancies are to be filled.