

CHAF  
LVII.

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 actions, 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 either the said counties; 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 authorised 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 lived 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-house, 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 the said counties, or the major part of them, are hereby authorised and required to elect, nominate and choose, one of the principal and better sort of the inhabitants of the county in the place and room of such trustee, and so to fill up the full number of trustees for such alms and work-house, which persons so elected and chosen, from time to time, are always to be qualified in the same manner as before by this act is directed.

How vacancies are to be filled.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That every person by this act appointed as a trustee for the poor, or that shall hereafter be nominated and appointed as such pursuant to the directions thereof, and who shall wilfully refuse or delay to take upon him the said office, shall forfeit and pay, for every such refusal or delay, the sum of ten pounds current money; provided, that no member of the general assembly, clergyman, attorney, or practising physician, be obliged to accept of the office of trustee aforesaid, or forfeit as aforesaid for refusing to accept and take upon him the same, and that no judge of the general court, county magistrate or sheriff, or any one who hath not the qualification to be a member of the general assembly, if elected, shall be capable to be chosen or act as a trustee aforesaid, nor shall any person be compellable to serve in less than three years after he has served, or paid the said forfeiture for not serving as a trustee aforesaid.

Penalty on refusal to serve, &c.

VI. AND, for enabling the said trustees to purchase land, and erect an alms and work-house in the said county, BE IT ENACTED, That the said trustees, or the major part of them, be and they are hereby authorised and empowered, from time to time, as occasion shall require, to draw upon the collector of their respective counties for all or any part of the money by this act assessed, levied and collected, as shall remain in his hands, which the said trustees, or the major part of them, shall think necessary for the uses and purposes mentioned in this act.

Trustees to draw, &c.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said trustees, or the major part of them, appointed as aforesaid, shall and they are hereby authorised, directed and required, to buy and purchase, in fee-simple, a quantity of land in the said counties respectively, not exceeding thirty acres; and the said trustees, or the major part of them, appointed as aforesaid, are hereby authorised, directed and required, to agree and contract with a workman or workmen to undertake, erect, build, and in a workman-like manner to complete and finish, on the said land when so purchased, good, strong, sufficient and convenient

To purchase land, &c.