

For any person authorized and appointed by such justice, to apprehend, or cause to be apprehended and committed to the said work-house, any vagrants, vagabonds, beggars, and other idle, dissolute and disorderly persons, found loitering or residing in the said county, who follow no labour, trade, occupation or business, and have no visible means of subsistence whereby to acquire an honest livelihood, there to be kept at hard labour for any time not exceeding three months; and the overseer of such alms and work-houses hereby required to receive into the said alms and work-house, any poor appointed as aforesaid to be received, and any vagrant, vagabond, beggar, and other idle, dissolute and disorderly person, so as aforesaid committed.

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XI.

XVII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That whosoever shall presume, either to set up a booth, stall, or other convenience, for the selling of strong liquors, on the land purchased for the use of the said alms and work-house, or shall commit any kind of trespass thereon, or shall sell or dispose of any strong liquor, or other matter or thing whatsoever to, or purchase any matter or thing whatsoever from, any poor, or other person entertained in the said alms and work-house, shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds current money.

Penalty on
keeping booth,
&c.

XVIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all sheriffs, constables, and all other officers and ministers of justice, shall be aiding and assisting to the said trustees for the poor in the said county, and to all such officers as shall be employed by them, as by this act is directed, in the execution and performance of the said service.

Sheriffs, &c.
to aid trustees,
&c.

XIX. 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 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 their defence; and if upon trial a verdict shall pass for the defendant or defendants, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become 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, 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.

General issue
pleadable, &c.

XX. 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 county aforesaid, shall and may elect and choose three of the inhabitants of the said county, to be trustees for the poor of that county in the stead of the first three named or eldest of the said trustees of the same county, which said first named or eldest trustee shall be and is by virtue hereof thenceforward discharged from their office.

Three trustees
to be chosen
annually, &c.

XXI. 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 other offenders, with the necessary lot or lots of ground adjoining to such house or houses, as convenient to the court-house as may be in the same county, for the reception and accommodation of the said poor, vagrants, vagabonds and other 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 the 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 said collector 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 the carrying the said act into execution, according to the true intent and meaning thereof.

Trustees to rent
an house, &c.

By 1799, ch. 65, the trustees in this and other counties are empowered to keep any number of out pensioners not exceeding ten, and to allow to each an annual pension not exceeding thirty dollars.

C H A P. XII.

An ACT for the relief of George Jacob Schly. Lib. TBII. No. B. fol. 310.

Passed 16th of
Dec. 1787.

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C H A P.