

Passed 22d of  
Dec. 1788.

An ACT for the relief of the poor of Queen-Anne's county. Lib.

JG. No. 1. fol. 24.

Preamble.

WHEREAS many of the inhabitants of Queen-Anne's county, by their humble petition to this general assembly, have set forth, that the taxes for the support of the poor of their county are very heavy and burthensome; but are, notwithstanding, under the present regulation, inadequate to the comfortable subsistence of said poor; that a work-house has become necessary for the reception and employment of beggars, vagrants and vagabonds; and that the free-school of the said county does not answer the purposes of its institution; and have therefore prayed, that an act may pass to appropriate the said free-school, with the land and funds belonging to the same, to the use of an alms and work-house for the said county;

Property vested  
in trustees, &c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the free-school property of the said county, of what nature soever, and the funds appropriated to the use thereof, be and are hereby vested in the trustees within named, and their successors, and shall be taken and held by them for the use and as funds for the relief and support of the poor of said county; and the visitors of the free-school in the said county are hereby authorised, required and directed, to deliver to the said trustees all the free-school property aforesaid, and to render unto them a full and just account of the profits thereof, and also of any sum or sums of money or tobacco which may be owing to the said school; and if there shall be any money or tobacco owing to the said school, the visitors shall, and are hereby required, to draw an order or orders for the same to the said trustees, and their successors, for the uses and purposes aforesaid.

Judices to levy  
money, &c.

III. AND, whereas there are buildings upon the said land which may be repaired and converted into alms and work-houses, and others which may be judged necessary by the said trustees for the purposes in this act mentioned may be erected and built on the said land, at a moderate expence, and the same ought to be effected at the general charge of the said county; BE IT ENACTED, That the justices of the said county for the time being shall, and they are hereby authorised and empowered to assess and levy, in equal proportions on the property within the said county liable to assessment, at the time of laying the county rate, the sum of three hundred pounds current money, in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, together with the collector's commission of six per centum thereon for collecting the same; which said rate and assessment, so as aforesaid to be laid and levied, shall be collected by the collector of said county in the same manner and at the same time as the county rate is collected; and the said money, when so as aforesaid collected, shall be paid by the said collector to such trustees for the poor, or the major part of them, as are by this act appointed, who are hereby authorised and required to receive and apply the same to the uses and purposes herein after directed.

Trustees ap-  
pointed, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That for the time being the several persons hereafter named be and are hereby appointed trustees of the poor within the said county, and are empowered with full and sufficient authority to discharge the several offices, duties and trusts, reposed and required of them by this act; that is to say, Messieurs Richard Tilghman, Vachel Downs, Richard Bennett Carmichael, George Jackson, Francis Hall, Aquila Brown, George Finley, Edward Wright and Philip Fiddeman; the which persons, or the major part of them, in case of the death or absence of any, are hereby required, with all convenient speed, to meet at such place within their county as to them shall seem meet, to qualify themselves for the office of trustees for the poor of their county, which they are to do by taking and subscribing the several oaths, or affirmations, appointed by law to be taken to the government, and also taking the following oath, viz. "I, A. B. do swear, or affirm, that I will duly and faithfully discharge the duties and trust committed to me as a trustee for the poor of Queen-Anne's county, by an act of the general assembly, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor in Queen-Anne's county, according to the best of my skill and knowledge; so help me God;" the which oaths are to be administered by any of the five persons last named for the county to the person first named, or in his absence to any one of the three persons first named that shall be there present, the which person being sworn as aforesaid, shall administer the oaths aforesaid 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 of any who shall refuse or neglect to qualify and act 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 for the poor of their said county, and as such are hereby invested