

ter relieving, regulating, and setting the poor to work, and punishing vagrants, beggars, vagabonds, and other 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 other 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.

C H A P.  
XV.

V. **And**, to perpetuate the succession of the aforesaid number of nine trustees for the poor in said county, **Be it enacted**, That as often as any one of the said trustees for the poor shall die, or remove himself out of the county, refuse to qualify himself by taking and subscribing the oaths or affirmations aforesaid, or become incapable of acting, the trustees for the time being, then surviving and remaining within the said county, or the major part of them, are hereby authorized and required to elect, nominate and choose, one of the inhabitants of said 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; the 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.

VI. **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 compelled 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, &amp;c.

VII. **And**, for enabling the said trustees to repair and to convert the said building into alms and work-houses, and to erect and build such others on the said land as they may think proper for the purposes herein mentioned, **Be it enacted**, That the said trustees, or the major part of them, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered, from time to time, as occasion shall require, to draw upon the collector of Queen-Anne's county 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 on collector, &amp;c.

VIII. **And be it enacted**, That the said trustees, or the major part of them, appointed as aforesaid, shall, and they are hereby authorized, directed and required, to agree and contract with a workman or workmen to undertake to repair the said buildings, and convert them into suitable and convenient houses, habitations and dwellings, and erect and build such others as they may judge proper and necessary on the said land (the whole to be completed and finished in a workman-like manner) for the reception of the poor of the said county, and of such vagrants, beggars, vagabonds, and other offenders, as shall be committed by virtue of this act, and they shall appropriate such part or parts thereof as they, or a majority of them, in their discretion, shall determine, to and for the reception and lodging of the poor of the said county, to be called the alms-house, and other part or parts thereof to and for the reception and lodging of all such vagrants, beggars, vagabonds, and other offenders, as shall be committed by virtue of this act, to be called the work-house; and the aforesaid land, and the aforesaid houses, habitations and buildings, when finished, shall be, and they are hereby enacted and declared to be, vested in the said trustees, and their successors, for ever, as

To contract with workmen, &amp;c.