

III. And be it enacted, That any one or more of the justices of the peace may take any child or children who is or are destitute, or suffering for want of support, or the child or children of beggars, and place the same in the care of some proper person or persons until the next meeting of the orphans court, when the said child or children shall be bound out as apprentices by the said orphans court as aforesaid; and in such case it shall and may be lawful for the said orphans court to make such an allowance as to them shall seem reasonable for the expence incurred by supporting as aforesaid the said child or children, and the same shall be levied on and paid by the county to which such child or children shall belong, except the person or persons who have had the care of such child or children, or some other person or persons can be found who will agree to take the said child or children as an apprentice or apprentices as aforesaid, and pay the expence incurred as aforesaid.

C H A P. XLV. And place out destitute children, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That any father may bind out his child as an apprentice, on reasonable terms, for any time not longer than till the full age of such child; that is to say, boys to twenty-one, and girls to sixteen years of age, and that the terms of such apprenticeship, with the age of the apprentice, shall be contained and expressed in an indenture, under the hand and seal of the father and master; and that the said indenture shall be lodged by the said master with the register of the orphans court of the county where such master resides, within thirty days after the execution thereof, under the penalty of three pounds current money, to be recovered from said master by indictment in the county court or criminal court of said county, and to be applied to the use and benefit of the poor of said county; and the register of the said orphans court shall and he is hereby obliged to receive and record the said indenture, and he shall be allowed the sum of three shillings current money for each and every indenture so recorded, to be paid by the said master.

Any father may bind out his child, &c.

*Indenture to be with Regt. under hand of master pay Recording*

V. And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the trustees of the poor of any county in this state, or for any three of them, to bind out any orphan or orphans, or other poor child or children, under their care in the poor-house of said county, to any discreet person applying for said orphan or orphans, or poor child or children, always having a regard to give a preference to tradesmen and mechanics, by obliging said applicants for said orphan or orphans, or other child or children, to sign a good and sufficient indenture to learn said apprentice the occupation that he follows, and to find him in good sufficient cloathing, meat, drink, washing and lodging, and to give such education as masters are obliged to give to apprentices bound by the several orphan courts of this state; and said indenture, when so taken, shall be lodged with the register of the orphans court of the county where such indenture is taken, by any one of the trustees of the poor of the said county, within thirty days after the execution thereof, under the penalty of three pounds for every neglect, to be recovered by presentment in the county court of the county where any such orphan or poor child shall be bound, and applied to the use and benefit of the poor of said county, and the register of said orphans court shall and he is hereby obliged to receive and record the said indenture as other indentures heretofore taken for orphans bound by the court of said county are and have been recorded, and the said clerk shall be allowed the sum of three shillings current money for each and every indenture so received and recorded, to be paid by the master.

Trustees may bind out orphans under their care, &c.

VI. And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any manufacturer or mechanic to take as an apprentice any male child until he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years; provided always, that the contract so made shall specify the age of the child at the time of making the said contract, and that the parent or parents of such child, if living, or if an orphan, the orphans court of such county as the child shall reside in, shall see the contract within two months after its execution, and notify their approbation thereof by an endorsement on the same, and that then the said contract shall be recorded among the records of the orphans court, and the sum of three shillings shall be paid by the master of the said apprentice therefor, and when so recorded the said contract shall be of the same validity

Manufacturers, &c. may take as an apprentice any male child, &c.

*no fine for neglecting the record of indenture*