

name they, and their successors, shall and may have perpetual succession, and shall and may, at all times hereafter, be persons able and capable in law to purchase, take and hold, to them and their successors, in fee, or for any less estate or estates, any lands, tenements, hereditaments, rents or annuities, within this state, not exceeding the yearly value of sixteen hundred dollars, by the gift, bargain, sale or devise, of any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable of making the same, and such lands, tenements or hereditaments, to rent or lease, in such manner as they may judge most conducive to the interest of the said poor, and to the end and purposes contemplated and intended to be produced by this act, and the act to which this is a supplement; and also to take and receive any sum or sums of money, and any kind of goods and chattels, which may or shall be given, sold or bequeathed, unto them, by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable to make a gift, sale or bequest thereof, and to apply the same for the use of the said poor as herein before directed; and may also take and receive, by way of subscription, any sum or sums of money which shall or may be given for the use of the said poor, and to advance the end intended by this act, and the act to which this is a supplement.

IV. And be it enacted, That the said trustees, and their successors, (by the name aforesaid,) shall be for ever hereafter capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all and any court of law or equity in this state, and before all or any judges, officers or other persons, in all and singular actions, matters and demands whatsoever; and that it shall and may be lawful for them, and their successors, for ever hereafter, to have a common seal for their use, and in their affairs and business, and the same, at the will and pleasure of them, and their successors, to change, alter, break and make anew, from time to time as they shall think best.

And may sue,
&c.

V. And, to keep up and perpetuate the number and succession of the said trustees, Be it enacted, That as often as any one or more of the said trustees herein appointed, or who shall hereafter be appointed in virtue of this act, shall die, remove him or themselves out of the county, refuse to qualify by taking and subscribing the said oath or affirmation, or become incapable of acting, or refuse to act, the justices of the county court, or the associate justices thereof, are hereby authorized and required to nominate and appoint one or more, as the case may require, of the principal inhabitants of the said county, in the place and room of such trustee or trustees, and to fill up the number of trustees of the poor of the said county, which person or persons so from time to time nominated and appointed, shall and are hereby directed and required to be qualified in the manner herein before directed, before he or they shall proceed to act as trustee or trustees of the poor of said county.

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 of the twenty-first section of the act to which this is a supplement, 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 twenty-four dollars; provided, that no member of the general assembly, clergyman, attorney, or practising physician, be obliged to accept of the office of the trustee aforesaid, or forfeit as aforesaid for refusing to accept and take upon him the same; and that no judge of the general court, justice of the county court, justice of the peace, or sheriff, or any one who hath not the qualifications to be a member of the general assembly, if elected, shall be capable to be chosen or act as a trustee aforesaid.

Penalty on refusing to act,
&c.

VII. And be it enacted, That the justices of the said county shall, and they are hereby authorized, empowered and directed, to assess and levy at their next court, in equal proportions on all the assessable property within the said county, the sum of two thousand dollars, and such further sum at the time of the county rate in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-nine as may be thought

Justices to levy money,
&c.