

convey the same in trust to any one or more of the ministers of the Roman catholic religion, being citizens of this state, and exercising their ministerial functions agreeably to the established rules and discipline of their church, and to the regulations to be agreed upon at the first meeting for choosing trustees pursuant to the directions of this act, and for such pious purposes as the same hath been confidentially held by him, which said declaration or deed so to be made, shall be signed by the party making the same in presence of two witnesses, acknowledged as aforesaid, and on the said declaration or deed shall be endorsed the affidavit of the party, that the property comprehended in such declaration or deed was really and bona fide held by him for pious purposes, or acquired as aforesaid in manner and for the purposes aforesaid, and the said affidavit shall be recorded with the said declaration or deed within six months after the execution thereof.

And be it enacted, That the said person or persons, and their successors, in whose favour the said declaration or deed shall be made, shall be vested with such estate in fee or lesser estate, according to the true intent and meaning of the said declaration or deed, and true intent of the party or parties making the same.

And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the ministers of the Roman catholic religion within this state, citizens thereof, and exercising their ministerial functions agreeably to their established rules and discipline, to choose, at their discretion, certain persons of their order, citizens of the state, not less than five, nor more than seven, to constitute a body politic or corporate, which said body politic or corporate may acquire and hold, by deed or otherwise, from any one of their own body, any property held in confidential trust before the fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, or acquired since that period by exchange or purchase from funds arising from such property held in confidential trust before the said fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, and which property shall be under their sole control and management, and the said ministers may do every thing by this act appointed for, or required of, any particular church, society or congregation, in electing, instituting and perpetuating, its respective coporation.

And, whereas by the declaration of rights it was, among other things, provided, that the churches, chapels, glebes, and all other property belonging to the church of England, now denominated the Protestant Episcopal Church, in this state, ought to remain to the said church for ever: And whereas certain laws or acts have been passed for the establishment of bodies politic, by the name of Select Vestries, for the preservation of the said property, and applying towards the support of ministers and readers, clerks and registers, of the said church; Be it therefore enacted, That the minister and vestry of every protestant episcopal church or congregation in this state, within their respective bounds or districts, heretofore called parishes, shall, as a body politic, upon the footing of equal liberty, without being obliged to any change of name, or any diminution of their former rights, under the said vestry acts, be entitled unto, and have all and singular, such other and farther rights, franchises, immunities, and enlargement or extension, of their property and estates, as the minister, trustees and body politic, of any other church or congregation are entitled to, or can of right have, claim or enjoy, under this act.

And be it further enacted, That if heretofore there has been, or hereafter shall be, any failure or neglect to choose vestrymen according to law, on any Easter Monday, or otherwise, to the injury of the vestry of any protestant episcopal church or congregation, it shall and may be lawful for the minister of such church or congregation, and in the absence or want of a minister, for any two of the former vestrymen, by advertisements put up at such church, to notify and call a meeting of the persons entitled to vote for vestrymen, on the first Monday of any month succeeding that on which Easter falls, in order to hold a new election for reviving and continuing such vestry according to law, and in the manner in which such election ought to have been held by law on the Easter Monday preceding.

And, whereas the particular churches, societies or congregations, for whose use and benefit the said trustees or bodies politic are intended to be incorporated by this act, may consist of male persons, considerably different in numbers; and it is reasonable and proper that the funds and revenues belonging to such churches, societies and congregations, should be established upon a scale as proportionate to their respective numbers as the circumstances of their situation will admit; Be it enacted, That where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number not exceeding twenty, it shall be lawful for the trustees, or bodies politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the use and advantage of their said church, society or congregation, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds current money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number more than twenty, and not exceeding forty, it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds like money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number more than forty, and not exceeding fifty, it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of six hundred pounds like money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall exceed the number of fifty, then it shall be lawful for the