



ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO SECUNDO

# GEORGI III. REGIS.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Cap. 12.

An Act for altering and enlarging the Powers of an Act of His present Majesty, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of *Wangford*, in the County of *Suffolk*.

[20th March 1812.]

**W**HEREAS an Act was passed in the Fourth Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of Wangford, in the County of Suffolk*: And whereas, on account of the great Increase of the Poor within the said Hundred, and the high Price of Provisions, the present Rates authorized to be raised, are inadequate for their Maintenance and Support, and it is expedient that the Provisions of the said Act should be altered and enlarged: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act all poor Persons who shall belong to any Parish or Place within the said Hundred, and who now are, or shall hereafter become chargeable to the same, shall from henceforth be under the Government and Management of the Guardians incorporated by the said recited Act, under the Name of 'The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of *Wangford*, in the County of *Suffolk*,' and shall be continued, kept and provided for, in the

The Poor to be under the Government of the Guardians incorporated by the Act of 4 G. 3.

[Loc. & Per.]

3 A

House

House of Industry in the said recited Act mentioned, according to the true Intent and Meaning thereof.

For limiting  
the Number  
of Guardians

II. And whereas it is found expedient that the Number of acting Guardians of the said Hundred should be reduced, be it therefore further enacted, That the present Directors and acting Guardians shall and may, and they are hereby empowered to assemble and meet at the *King's Head* in *Bungay*, in the said County of *Suffolk*, on *Wednesday* next after the Feast of *Saint John the Baptist*, after the passing of this Act, and then and there proceed by a Majority of Voices, in such Manner as is prescribed by the said Act of the Fourth Year of His present Majesty, to elect Twenty-four Persons only, out of the Body of Guardians, to be acting Guardians of the Poor, until other acting Guardians shall be chosen in their Stead; and, at the annual Meeting to be holden on *Wednesday* next after the Feast of *Saint John the Baptist* in every Year, the Directors and acting Guardians then present shall in like Manner choose Twenty-four of the Guardians to be acting Guardians for the following Year; Eight of which said new elected Guardians shall not have been acting Guardians the preceeding Year.

Committees  
of Directors  
and acting  
Guardians  
appointed for  
each Quarter  
of the Year.

III. And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall at such first Meeting, and also for the future at such annual Meetings to be held by them as aforesaid, appoint Six Directors, and Six acting Guardians, for each Quarter of the succeeding Year, instead of Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians as directed in the said recited Act; and that the said Six Directors, and Six acting Guardians, so to be from Time to Time appointed for each and every Quarter of the Year, may divide themselves into Committees of Four to act for each Month in each Quarter, to meet at the Poor House on every *Wednesday* Morning, in like Manner as the said Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians are by the said recited Act authorized and empowered to divide themselves into Committees for each Month; and that such Directors and acting Guardians shall be liable to the same Penalties and Forfeitures for Non-attendance at any of such Weekly Meetings, as they are subject to by virtue of the said recited Act, and recoverable in like Manner.

Former Bye  
Laws to  
continue in  
force, and  
new ones may  
be made.

IV. And be it further enacted, That all Bye Laws, Rules, Orders and Regulations, made by the said Directors and acting Guardians under or by virtue of the said recited Act, and in force at the Time of passing this Act, shall be and continue in force in like Manner as if the same had been made under and by virtue of this Act; and the said Directors and acting Guardians shall have, and they are hereby declared to have, full Power and Authority from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, at any of their Quarterly Meetings, to make, institute and ordain, any new Bye Laws, Rules, Orders and Regulations, as well for better governing the said Corporation, as for better governing, employing, and supporting, the Poor within the said Hundred, and for carrying on any Trade or Manufactory that shall or may be agreed upon by the said Directors and acting Guardians for the Employment of the Poor in the said House, and for other the Ends and Purposes of this Act and the said recited Act; and also to constitute and appoint such and so many Committees, to consist of such Number, of the said Directors and acting Guardians as they shall think fit, for the more easy and effectual Execution of the several Trusts and Powers  
by



by the said recited Act or by this Act reposed and vested in the said Corporation; and from Time to Time afterwards to repeal each and every, or any such Bye Law or Bye Laws, Rules, Orders and Regulations, whether the same now is or are, or shall hereafter be in force, or otherwise to alter and amend the same as to them the said Directors and acting Guardians shall seem meet: Provided always, that no less than Nine of the said Directors and acting Guardians (whereof Five at least to be Directors) shall be present at each and every Meeting held for such Purpose, and that the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians then present (of which major Part Five at least shall be Directors) shall give their Assent to such Bye Laws, Rules, Orders and Regulations, Alterations, Amendments, or Repeals: Provided also, that nothing in such Bye Laws, Rules, Orders or Regulations, shall be repugnant to any thing in this or the said recited Act contained, or to the Laws of that Part of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* called *England*.

V. And be it further enacted, That no Inhabitant of any Parish, Hamlet or Place, within the said Hundred of *Wangford*, although rated or liable to the Payment of any Rate or Assessment for the Relief of the Poor within the said Hundred, shall be deemed an incompetent Witness upon any Trial, Appeal, Hearing, or other Law Proceeding whatsoever, in, about, touching or concerning the Execution of this Act or the said recited Act, or for any Matter or Thing relating thereto, by reason of his or her being an Inhabitant of any of the Parishes, Hamlets or Places, within the said Hundred, or being rated to or paying, or being liable to pay, any Rate or Assessment for the Relief of the Poor as aforesaid.

Competency  
of Witnesses.

VI. And whereas the Sums which have from Time to Time been raised under and by virtue of the Provisions of the said recited Act, have been found insufficient for the several Purposes of that Act; be it therefore enacted, That from the Annual and General Quarterly Meeting next after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, and they are hereby required to assess upon every Parish, Hamlet, and Place within the said Hundred, such Sum or Sums of Money as shall or may be necessary to be raised for the Cloathing, Maintenance, and Relief of the Poor of such several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places respectively, the legal and necessary Expences of the Establishment and Support of the said House of Industry, and for paying off the Money already borrowed by virtue of the said recited Act, and which may hereafter be borrowed by virtue of this Act, in the Proportions and Manner following; (that is to say,) an Account of the whole Expence of the said House of Industry, including the Payments for Interest on Money borrowed, and for Out Reliefs to Paupers belonging to the said Hundred, not residing within any of the incorporated Parishes, and whose Settlement in any of the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, cannot be otherwise ascertained, shall be taken from the Books of the Corporation for the last Ten Years, and after deducting therefrom the Earnings of the Paupers residing in the said House within that Time, together with all other Profits and Advantages arising from the Concern of the said Corporation during that Period, the Amount which shall then remain shall be averaged by the Number of Years, and the average Annual Amount shall be divided by the average aggregate Number of Paupers which, during the same Period, shall have been annually cloathed and maintained

Amount of  
Assessment  
limited.



maintained in the said House; and each Parish shall be charged with such Sum of Money for each Pauper, as shall be in Proportion to the Average Number of Paupers belonging to such Parishes, Hamlets, and Places respectively, during that Period; to which shall be added the annual Amount, averaged in like Manner, of all Sums paid by the Treasurer of the said Corporation, for the Relief of the Poor belonging to each Parish, Hamlet, and Place respectively, and not resident in the said House of Industry; and the Amount of the Sums so found, being added together, shall be taken and considered to be the Expence which each Parish, Hamlet and Place, hath annually incurred to the Corporation during the said Period of Ten Years, and shall be the Sum, Rate, or Assessment, to be annually levied and raised by Quarterly Payments on each of the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, during the Seven Years then next following for and towards the Cloathing, Maintenance, and Relief of the Poor of the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, the legal and necessary Expences of the Establishment and Support of the said House of Industry, and all other necessary Expences of the said Corporation, and the Payment of the Debt already incurred under and by virtue of the said recited Act, and which may be incurred under and by virtue of this Act, together with the Annual Interest thereof.

Directors and acting Guardians may alter the Rates.

VII. Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians, or the major Part of them present at any of their Annual and General Quarterly Meetings to be hereafter holden, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized and directed from Time to Time, as Occasion may require, during the said Term or any subsequent Term, to increase or diminish the said Rates or Assessments in the Proportions aforesaid: Provided also, that at the End of the Seven Years next ensuing, the said Annual and General Quarterly Meeting next after the passing of this Act, and of every succeeding Seven Years, the said Directors and acting Guardians are hereby authorized and required to take fresh or new Averages, in like Manner and according to such Proportions as aforesaid, of the Accounts of the said Corporation for the preceding Seven Years, and to make such Alterations in the Assessments of the said several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, as on the taking of such new Averages shall appear necessary.

Allotment of Rates.

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if at the Time of taking fresh or new Averages in Manner herein-before directed, at the the End of the first Seven Years, or any succeeding Seven Years, it shall happen that any one or more of the said incorporated Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, shall not, during any Part of the intermediate Time between the taking of such Averages, have had a single Pauper resident in the said House of Industry, every such Parish, Hamlet, and Place, shall notwithstanding be obliged to contribute from Time to Time in due Proportion, towards defraying the whole Expence of the general Establishment and Support of the said House, including therein the Interest on Money borrowed and to be borrowed under and by virtue of this Act, and also all other general Expences to be incurred under or by virtue of this and the said recited Act, and also the Out Relief to Paupers belonging to the said Hundred, and not residing in any of the said incorporated Parishes, but exclusive of and except the Cloathing, Maintenance, and Support of the Paupers resident in the said House; and the Sums so to be contributed from Time to Time, by such Parish, Hamlet, or Place respectively, shall,

shall, in the Case aforesaid, be made to bear the same Proportion to the averaged annual Amount of the whole Expence of such Establishment, (exclusive as aforesaid) as the Annual Amount (averaged in Manner aforesaid) of all Sums paid by the Treasurer for the Relief of the Poor belonging to such Parish, Hamlet, or Place respectively, shall be found to be in and bear to the average Amount of One Year's Payments, by the Treasurer, for the Relief of the Poor belonging to all the said incorporated Parishes collectively.

IX. And, in order to enable the said Directors and acting Guardians to ascertain with greater Accuracy the respective Settlements of the several Poor relieved while residing out of the said House, for the more accurate taking and ascertaining the said Average, as well immediately after the passing of this Act as in Time to come; be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians to enquire about and ascertain the Settlements of the said Paupers in the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places respectively, in a summary Way; and for that Purpose to call for and examine all Books, Entries and Parochial Documents whatsoever, of or belonging to the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places respectively, and to summon before them and examine, as well upon Oath as otherwise, (which Oath the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any Meeting or Meetings for such Purpose assembled, or at any Weekly Committee, are hereby empowered to administer), all Parish Officers, Paupers and other Persons, touching and concerning the Settlement of all and every Pauper and Paupers relieved out of the said House by virtue of this Act, or the said recited Act, during the intermediate Time between the taking of the several Averages aforesaid, and also concerning the Settlement of all and every Pauper and Paupers maintained in the said House during such Period: Provided always, that in all Cases where the Settlement of any such Pauper or Paupers cannot be otherwise ascertained, he, she, or they shall be deemed and taken to be settled in that Parish of the said Hundred in which it shall appear by the Books of the said Corporation that such Pauper or Paupers resided at the Time of receiving such Relief as aforesaid, or whence he, she, or they shall have been received into the said House, as the Case may be.

For ascertaining Settlements of the Poor.

X. And be it further enacted and declared, That at each of the Annual General Meetings to be hereafter held in pursuance of the said recited Act, or of this Act, the Directors then present shall and they are hereby authorized and required to nominate and appoint Three Directors, out of the Committees then to be appointed, for each Quarter of the succeeding Year, so that One of such Three Directors shall be chosen from each Monthly Committee, for the Purpose of attending a Meeting usually held, and hereafter to be held at the said House previous to each of the Quarterly Meetings held pursuant to the said recited Act, in order that at such previous Meeting, the Accounts of the Treasurer, and all other Accounts concerning the said Corporation, may be audited and examined, in order to their being laid before the said Quarterly Meeting; and in case any of the said Directors so appointed to attend such previous Quarterly Meeting, shall neglect to attend the same, he shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Shillings, to be levied and applied as other Penalties and Forfeitures are by the said recited Act directed to be levied and applied.

For the Appointment of Directors to attend previous Meetings to audit Accounts.

[Loc. & Per.]

3 B

XI. And



Punishment  
of such Poor  
as shall be  
guilty of  
Vice or Im-  
morality.

XI. And be it further enacted, That if any poor Person, maintained or relieved in the Poor House or Houses, which hath or have been built in pursuance of the said recited Act, shall be guilty of profane Cursing or Swearing, or of any lewd, immoral or disorderly Behaviour, or shall neglect or refuse to perform the Work or Service which he, she or they shall be required to do (such Work or Service being suited to his, her, or their Age, Strength and Ability) every such Offender may be punished in Manner directed by the said recited Act, or by solitary Confinement in the said House or Houses, without any other Diet than Bread and Water, for any Space of Time not exceeding Seven Days; such Punishment to be inflicted by Order of the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians present at any of the Weekly Meetings; or, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians at such Weekly Meetings, to order such Offender or Offenders to be carried before a Justice of the Peace, to be dealt with according to Law.

To provide  
Lodgings for  
lying-in Wo-  
men.

XII. And whereas a Number of the most abandoned Women having legal Settlements within some Parish or Township within the said Hundred; Year after Year go to lie-in in the Poor House of the said Hundred, setting an Example, by their Conduct, destructive to the Morals of the Children there educated, and it is expedient that this Evil should be remedied, by providing suitable Lodgings in other Parishes, where the most notorious of such Women might be more properly taken Care of; be it therefore enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall and may and they are hereby empowered, at any of their General or other Meetings, to provide in any of the incorporated Parishes within the said Hundred such Lodgings as aforesaid: Provided always, that all Bastard Children born in such Lodgings so to be provided shall carry the same Settlement as if born in the said Hundred House.

Power to bor-  
row Money.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, or any Nine or more of them, whereof Five at the least shall be Directors, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to borrow and take up at Interest such Sum or Sums of Money as they shall think necessary, for and towards the Expences of repairing, altering, enlarging or rebuilding, either in the whole or in Part, the said House of Industry, or any Building or Buildings thereto belonging, or of making any additional Building, and to give and grant Securities for the same, in the like Form, and with the like Powers and Authorities, Rights of Assignment, Provisions and Conditions, and subject to the same Restrictions as are contained or expressed in the said recited Act, in respect of any Sum or Sums of Money borrowed under and by virtue thereof: Provided always, that the whole Principal Sum, which at any Time shall be due and owing upon the Credit of this Act, shall never exceed the Sum of Five thousand Pounds, exclusive of the Debt now due and owing, or such Part or Parts of the same as shall continue and remain unpaid at the Time when any such Sum or Sums of Money shall be so borrowed and taken up as aforesaid.

Provisions of  
former Act  
extended to  
this.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That so much and such Parts of the said recited Act, and all Provisions, Powers, Articles, Clauses, Impositions, and other Matters and Things in the same, not hereby repealed, varied

or altered, shall be and continue to be in full Force, and shall be applied and extended to, and incorporated with this Act, as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purposes, as if the same were severally and respectively herein repeated and re-enacted; and that all such Provisions, Powers, Articles, Clauses, Impositions, and other Matters and Things in the said recited Act, which are by this Act varied, altered or amended, shall be considered, construed and enforced, as they are so varied, altered and amended, and not otherwise.

XV. And be it further enacted, That all the Charges and Expences incident to, and attending the obtaining and passing of this Act, shall be paid by the Treasurer out of the Funds of the said Corporation, and shall be deemed Part of their general Expences. Expences of the Act to be paid.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Public Act, and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices and others, without being specially pleaded. Public Act.

---

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN,  
Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1812.

