

158-62



No. 62.

1180



A

B I L L

For Relieving certain Persons from the Payment of the
Poor Rates; and for extending Parochial Relief, in
certain Cases, for a Time to be limited.

*Note.—The Figures in the Margin denote the Number of the Folios
in the written Copy.*

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Forty-third
Year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen ELIZA-
BETH, intituled, "An Act for the Relief of the Poor,"
it was Enacted, That the Churchwardens and the
Overseers of the Poor of every Parish, to be appointed
as therein directed, or the greater Part of them, should from Time
to Time, by and with the Consent of Two or more Justices of the
Peace, raise, by Taxation of every Inhabitant, Parson, Vicar, and
other, and of every Occupier of Lands, Houses, Tythes, Impro-
prietate Propriations of Tythes, Coal Mines, or saleable Underwoods,
in the said Parish, such competent Sum and Sums of Money as
they should think fit for the necessary Relief of the Lame, Impotent,
Old, Blind, and such other among them being Poor and not able to
work, and for other the Purposes therein mentioned: And it was
thereby also Enacted, That it should be lawful for the said Church-
wardens and Overseers, or any of them, by Warrant from any Two
such

A

1181

[2]

such Justices of the Peace, to levy as well the said Sums of Money and all Arrearages of every one that should refuse to contribute according as they should be assessed, by Distress and Sale of the Offenders Goods, and that in Defect of such Distress, it should be lawful for any Two such Justices of the Peace to commit him or them to the Common Gaol of the County, there to remain until Payment of the same:

And whereas it is expedient, during the present high Price of Provisions, to enable Two or more Justices of the Peace to relieve Persons, in certain Cases, from the Payment of Rates and Assessments made for the Relief of the Poor:

2 Be it therefore 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 when, and as often as Application shall be made to Two or more Justices of Peace to issue a Warrant to distrain the Goods of any Person assessed for the Relief of the Poor, in and by any Rate now made, or which shall be made between the passing of this Act and Easter which will be in the Year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Two, it shall and may be lawful for such Justices to enquire, upon Oath, into the Ability of such Person to pay such Assessment, and if it shall appear to the said Justices that such Person is unable to pay the same, to discharge such Person from the Payment thereof, by an Order under their Hands and Seals (which Order may be in the Form in the Schedule hereto annexed;) and which said Order shall be delivered to the Overseers or Overfeer by whom such Application is made, and shall be a sufficient Authority to such Overseers or Overfeer to forbear levying such Assessment, and to discharge the same from their or his Accounts.

Provided always, and be it further Enacted, That no Person or Persons shall be relieved or discharged from the Payment of any Rate or Assessment which shall be rated or assessed on him, her, or them, in respect of any House or Premises within the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Liberties thereof, and within the Bills of Mortality, or any or either of them, which shall be of the Yearly Value of Pounds or upwards, or which shall be rated or assessed on him, her, or them, in respect of any House or Premises within any other City or Town Corporate which shall be of the Yearly Value of Pounds or upwards, or which shall be rated or assessed on him, her, or them, in respect of any House or Premises within

1182

[3]

within any other Parish, Township, or Place, which shall be of the Yearly Value of Pounds or upwards; nor shall any such Person or Persons be relieved or discharged from the Payment of any such Rate or Assessment in respect of any Land other than such as shall be attached to or occupied and rated with some House or Tenement, and which shall not exceed the Quantity of One Part of One Statute Acre; nor shall any such Person or Persons be entitled to receive or derive any Benefit or Advantage whatsoever under or by virtue of this Act, if it shall appear to the Satisfaction of such Justices, upon such Enquiry as aforesaid, that such Person or Persons is or are possessed of or entitled to any other Messuage, House, Land, or Premises, or any Personal Property, to the Value or Amount of other than such in respect of which he or they shall require such Relief as aforesaid.

And be it further Enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Two of such Justices, by Writing under their Hands, to summon any Person or Persons to appear before them, at a Time to be specified in such Summons, to give Evidence concerning any Matter or Thing which shall arise touching the Execution of this Act; and for either of the said Justices to administer an Oath to such Person or Persons, Witness or Witnesses; and if any such Person or Persons, Witness or Witnesses, who shall be so summoned as aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse to appear at the Time and Place for that Purpose appointed in such Summons (without a reasonable Excuse for such his, her, or their Neglect, to be allowed by such Justices) he, she, or they shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence any Sum not exceeding Shillings, nor less than

as such Justices shall direct; and in Default of Payment of the Sum so directed to be paid at such Time as the said Justices shall appoint, either of the said Justices are hereby authorized to issue his Warrant for apprehending such Person who shall neglect or refuse to pay the same; and in case such Offender shall escape or go out of the Jurisdiction of such Justice, it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace of the County or Place where such Offender shall be found, by Indorsement of such Warrant, to authorize the Execution thereof within the Jurisdiction of such Justice, and the Justice who granted such Warrant may, upon the Offender being brought before him, commit such Offender to some public Prison or House of Correction in the County, Riding, City, Division, Liberty, or Place, within the Jurisdiction of such Justice, there to remain, without Bail or Mainprize, for any Term not exceeding nor less than from the Day of every such Commitment; and if any Person or Persons summoned

A 2

1183

[4]

moned as a Witness or Witnesses to give Evidence as aforesaid, shall appear at the Time and Place for that Purpose appointed, but shall refuse to answer any lawful Questions, such Justices may commit every such Person to such Prison or House of Correction as aforesaid, for any Time not exceeding Days from the Time of every such Commitment.

And be it further Enacted, That the Penalties by this Act imposed shall be paid to the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish for which such Rate or Assessment shall have been made as aforesaid, and shall be applied for the Use of the Poor of such Parish.

And whereas it is also expedient that the Right of enforcing poor Persons requiring Relief, who are Owners of any Cottage, Tenement, or Garden of small Annual Value, or of any Household Goods, Implements of Trade, or Live Stock, to assign or convey or deliver up the same to the Use of the Parish, before they are admitted to receive Parochial Relief, should be suspended during the high Price of Provisions; **Be it therefore further Enacted,** That no poor Person being Owner of any Cottage, Tenement, or Garden, not exceeding the Annual Value of Pounds, or of any Household Goods, Implements of Trade, or Live Stock, not exceeding in the Whole the Value or Amount of who shall, between the passing of this Act and Easter One thousand Eight hundred and Two, stand in need of and apply for Relief to any Overseer of the Poor of the Parish in which he or she shall then be legally settled and actually reside, shall be compelled or compellable to assign or convey or deliver up the same, or any Part thereof, for the Use of the Parish, but such poor Person shall have and receive such weekly Relief as any Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace usually acting in and for the District may in their just and proper Discretion think fit to order, without assigning or conveying or delivering up his or her Cottage, Tenement, or Garden, Household Goods, Implements of Trade, and Live Stock, for the Benefit of such Parish.

Provided nevertheless, and be it further Enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall deprive or take away, or be construed to deprive or take away, from any Person who shall have or receive Relief under or by Means of this Act, any Advantage, Benefit, Privilege, or Emolument whatsoever, which any such Person is or shall or may be entitled to by virtue or in consequence of his or her being rated or assessed to any Rate or Assessment made for the Relief of the Poor.

1184

[5]

SCHEDULE.

To _____ and _____
Overseers of the Poor of the Parish
of _____ in the
County of _____

to wit. } **W**HEREAS We _____ Esquires,
Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for
the said County of _____ having
enquired, upon Oath, into the Ability of *A. B.* of your Parish,
to pay the Rate or Assessment for the Relief of the Poor in the
said Parish, assessed upon him [*or, her*]; and it appearing to us
that he [*or, she*] is unable to pay the same; NOW We the said
and _____ in pursuance
and by virtue of an Act of Parliament, made and passed in the
Forty-first Year of the Reign of His present MAJESTY, intituled, "*An Act*" [*here set forth the Title of the Act*] Do hereby
Order, that the said *A. B.* shall be relieved and discharged from
the Payment of such Rate or Assessment. Given under our Hands
and Seals the _____ Day of _____

1185

A

B I L L

For Relieving certain Persons from the Payment of the Poor Rates; and for extending Parochial Relief, in certain Cases, for a Time to be limited.

Ordered to be printed 25th February 1801.