

several towns or districts, a discreet suitable person, being a freeholder, and resident in the same county, for a County Treasurer; the votes to be counted and sorted in the town or district meeting by the Moderator thereof and Town Clerk; the names of the persons voted for, and the number each person had, shall be recorded by the Clerk in the town or district book, and an attested copy of such record shall be transmitted under seal to the next Court of General Sessions of the Peace, to be held within and for the same county, on the first day of the Court's sitting; there to be opened and compared with the like returns from the several towns and districts in such county: and the person having the majority of the said votes, and accepting of the said office, after being sworn to the faithful discharge of the trust before the said Court, or any two Justices thereof, *quorum unus*, and giving bond for the faithful discharge of the trust, with sufficient sureties, in such penal sum as the Court shall direct, to the Clerk of the peace for the same county, for the time being, and his successor in that office, shall continue in the said office for the term of one year, and until some other person shall be chosen and qualified as aforesaid in his room.

And in case, upon comparing the votes returned as aforesaid, no one person shall have a majority of the whole number of votes returned, or the person chosen shall decline accepting the office, or after accepting shall die, or resign, or remove out of the county, within the year; then, and in such case, it shall be lawful for the Justices of the same Court to appoint by ballot a suitable person, being a freeholder in the same county, to that office; and the person thus appointed by the Justices of the General Sessions of the Peace, and accepting the office, and being sworn to the faithful discharge of the trust, and giving bond as before directed, shall be Treasurer of said county for the remainder of the year, and until some other person shall be chosen and qualified in manner as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all monies received by the County Treasurer, for the use of the county, shall be improved and employed by him for the defraying county charges, as the Court of General Sessions of the Peace shall from time to time, by their order in writing, direct and appoint, except that the travel and attendance of the Grand Jury at the Supreme Judicial Court, and the travel of the Petit Jurors, with

When no one person shall have a majority of the votes returned, Justices of the Court of Sessions may appoint a suitable person.

Monies received by the County Treasurer, how to be improved.

more principal inhabitants thereof, (or with the Clerk or some principal member of the body corporate) thirty days at least before the day of the sitting of the Court, unto which the same shall be returnable.

Privileges and powers of districts.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all places incorporated by the name of Districts, before the first day of *January*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, are hereby declared to be towns to every intent and purpose whatever; and places incorporated by the name of Districts since the same first day of *January*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, or such places as may hereafter be incorporated by the name of District, are and shall be entitled to all the privileges, and vested with all the powers in this act expressed, as amply to every intent and purpose as they could have been if expressly named herein.

And whereas in divers laws, provision is made relating to the annual meetings in March, which it is necessary should be extended to the meetings holden in the month of April, in case the annual meeting of any town should be holden in that month:

Matters and things, by law directed to be done at March meetings, may be transacted in April.

Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all matters and things, which by any law or resolve of this Commonwealth, are directed to be done, and transacted at the town meetings in *March*, may hereafter be done, and transacted at a town meeting in *April*; any thing in such law or resolve, to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all laws heretofore made for the purposes mentioned in this act, be, and they hereby are repealed, and rendered null and void.

March 23, 1786.

1785. — Chapter 76.

[February Session, ch. 35.]

Chap. 76 AN ACT DIRECTING THE TIME AND MANNER OF APPOINTING COUNTY TREASURERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That there shall be annually chosen in each county within this Commonwealth, in the month of *March* or *April*, by the written votes of such persons as are by the constitution qualified to vote for Representatives in the

County Treasurer to be annually chosen.

the fees for venires, and the legal fees to the Clerk for examining and certifying the same, may be paid by order of the Supreme Judicial Court; and each County Treasurer shall account with the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, for the same county of which he is Treasurer, for all his receipts and payments; which Court shall make him such allowance for his executing the duties of his office, as to them shall seem reasonable.

Empowered to enforce the payment of taxes; and shall lay an account annually before the General Court.

And be it further enacted, That each County Treasurer respectively be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered to draw in and enforce the payment of all county rates and taxes, assessed agreeable to the directions of law, by the same rules and methods prescribed for the Treasurer and Receiver General of the Commonwealth to gather in the rates and taxes assessed for the use of the Commonwealth, and shall annually lay before the General Court an account of all monies, that shall have been raised in the county to which he belongs, by assessments on the several towns and places therein, or by any other way or manner by him received as County Treasurer, and how the same have been disposed of; and no further assessment shall be made on the several towns and places in the county to which he belongs, until the said account has been offered to the General Court and allowed by them.

This act to take place in December next.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall be in force from and after the first day of *December* next, and not sooner. *March 23, 1786.*

1785. — Chapter 77.

[February Session, ch. 36.]

Chap. 77 AN ACT INCORPORATING A SOCIETY, BY THE NAME OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONGREGATIONAL CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

Preamble.

Whereas a number of Congregational Ministers, within this Commonwealth, have petitioned, and it appears to the General Court expedient, that a number of persons be incorporated into a society, for the humane and benevolent purposes of affording relief and support to the widows and children of deceased Ministers, and other persons herein mentioned:

Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That Thomas Barnard, Clerk, Stephen Choate, Esq; Caleb Davis, Esq; Benjamin