

venient at the time when such Assessment shall be ordered. And the said Society may elect annually, and at any other time in case of vacancy and as they shall agree a Clerk and Treasurer and any other Officers which they shall find necessary for the conduct of their affairs, and may sue, and shall be liable to be sued by their corporate name, and thereby shall pursue answer and defend in any Suit. *Provided* that no person not herein named, shall be considered as a Member of the said Corporation, untill it shall be certified by the Clerk thereof, to the Clerk of the Parish or Town wherein such person is, at the time holden for Parish Taxes, and such Certificate delivered accordingly. *And Provided also* that any member of said Society leaving with the Clerk or Treasurer thereof, a Certificate in writing, of his intention to withdraw therefrom shall not be liable in person or Estate to pay any proportion of any Tax thereafter Voted and assessed by said Society but shall be considered as a member of the Parish in which he resides.

Society may elect Officers.

Proviso.

And be it further enacted, that John Carnes Esqr. be and he is hereby authorized to issue his Warrant, directed to some principal member of said Society, requiring him to warn the first Meeting of the Members qualified to Vote in their Affairs to be holden at some convenient time and place, for the choice of a Clerk and Treasurer, and any other Officers which shall be necessary and to agree upon a method of calling future meetings, and to transact any other matter respecting the affairs of said Corporation which shall be set forth in such Notification.

John Carnes, Esq. to issue warrant.

Approved February 26, 1794.

1793. — Chapter 59.

[January Session, ch. 32.]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RELIEF AND SUPPORT, EMPLOYMENT AND REMOVAL OF THE POOR, AND FOR REPEALING ALL FORMER LAWS MADE FOR THOSE PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that every Town and District, within this Commonwealth, shall be holden to relieve and support all poor and indigent persons lawfully settled therein, whenever they shall stand in need thereof; and may vote and raise monies therefor, and for their employment, in the

Towns authorized to support poor —

— to choose
Overseers —

same way that monies for other Town or District charges are voted and raised; And may also, at their annual meetings, choose any number, not exceeding twelve, of suitable persons dwelling therein, to be Overseers of [of] their poor, and where such are not specially chosen, the Selectmen shall be Overseers of the Poor *ex officio*.

— who shall
have the care
thereof.

Be it further enacted, That said Overseers shall have the care and oversight of all such poor and indigent persons so settled in their respective Towns and Districts; and shall see that they are suitably relieved, supported and employed either in the workhouse, or other tenements belonging to such Towns or Districts or in such other way and manner, as they, at any legal meeting shall direct, or otherwise at the discretion of said Overseers, at the cost of such Town or District.

Provido.

Provided always and be it further enacted, that the kindred of any such poor person, if any he shall have, in the line or degree, of Father or Grandfather, Mother or Grandmother, Children or Grand children, by consanguinity living within this Commonwealth, of sufficient ability, shall be holden to support such Pauper, in proportion to such ability.

Court of
Common Pleas
authorized, in
case, of support-
ing poor.

And the Court of Common Pleas in the County where any one of such kindred to be charged shall reside, upon complaint made by any Town or District, or kindred who shall have been at any expence for the relief and support of any such Pauper (which complaint being filed in the Clerk's Office of such Court and summons thereon issued, directed to and served by any proper Officer to serve original summons, and in the manner they are by Law to be served, fourteen days before the sitting of such Court shall be sufficient to hold the persons summoned to answer thereto) may on due hearing either upon the appearance or default of the kindred so summoned, assess and apportion such sum as they shall judge reasonable therefor, upon such of said kindred as they shall judge of sufficient ability and according thereto, to the time of such assessment with costs, and may enforce payment thereof by Warrant of distress, *Provided* such assessment shall not extend to any expence for any relief afforded more than six months previous to the filing of such complaint:

Provido.

And may further assess and apportion upon them such weekly sum for the future, as they shall judge sufficient

for the support of such Pauper, to be paid quarterly till further order of Court, and upon application from time to time of the Town District or kindred to whom the same shall have been ordered to be paid, the Clerk of said Court shall issue, and may renew a Warrant of Distress for the arrears of any preceding quarter.

And the Court may further order with whom of such kindred that may desire it, such pauper shall live and be relieved, and for such time with one, and such with another, as they shall judge proper, having regard to the comfort of the Pauper, as well as the convenience of the kindred. And upon suggestion, other kindred of ability not named in the complaint may be notified, and the process may be continued, and upon due notice, whether they appear or are defaulted, the Court may proceed against them in the same manner as if they had been named in the complaint. But if such complaint be not entered or be discontinued or withdrawn, or be adjudged groundless the respondents shall recover costs.

And such Court may take further order from time to time in the premises upon application of any party interested, and may alter such assessment and apportionment as the circumstances may vary.

And be it further enacted, That said Overseers be, and they hereby are empowered from time to time to bind out, by deed indented or Poll, as apprentices to be instructed and employed in any Lawful art, trade or mystery, or as servants to be employed in any lawful work or labour, any Male or Female children whose parents are lawfully settled in and become actually chargeable to their Town or District; also whose parents so settled, shall be thought by said Overseers to be unable to maintain them (whether they receive alms or are so chargeable or not) *provided* they be not assessed to any Town or district charges; and also all such who or whose parents residing in their Town or District are supported there at the charge of the Commonwealth, or whose parents are unable to support them as aforesaid, to any Citizen of this Commonwealth — That is to say, male children till they come to the age of Twenty one years, and females till they come to the age of eighteen or are married; which binding shall be as valid and effectual in law, as if such children had been of the full age of Twenty one years, and had by a like deed bound themselves, or their parents had been

Overseers
authorized to
bind out poor
children.

Proviso.

consenting thereto: Provision to be made in such deed for the instructing of male children, so bound out to read write, & cypher and of Females, to read, and write and for such other instruction, benefit, and allowance either within or at the end of the term, as to the Overseers may seem fit and reasonable.

Duty of Overseers respecting such children.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of said Overseers, to enquire into the usage of children already legally bound out or that may be bound out by force of this Act, and to defend them from injuries. And upon complaint, by such Overseers made to the Court of Common Pleas in the County where their Town or District is or where the child may be bound, against the master of any such child, for abuse, ill treatment or neglect, said Court (having duly notified the party complained of) may proceed to hear the complaint, and if the same be supported, and the cause shall be judged sufficient may liberate and discharge such child from his or her Master, with costs, for which execution may be awarded, otherwise the complaint shall be dismissed, but without costs, unless it appear groundless and without probable cause, in which case costs shall be allowed the respondent.

Court of Common Pleas authorized in case.

Apprentices discharged may be bound anew.

And any apprentice or servant so discharged or whose master shall decease, may be bound out anew, for the remainder of the term in manner aforesaid: And such Overseers may also have remedy by action on such deed, against any person liable thereby, for recovery of damages for breaches of any of the Covenants therein contained, which when recovered shall be placed in the Town or District Treasury, deducting reasonable charges, and disposed of by the Overseers at their discretion for the benefit and relief of such apprentice or servant within the term; the remainder, if any, to be paid him at the expiration thereof; and the Court before which such cause shall be tried originally and on the appeal may also, upon the Plaintiff's request, if they see cause, liberate and discharge such apprentice or servant from his master, if it hath not then been already done in the method before directed by this Act. And such apprentice or servant shall have like remedy when their term is expired, for damages for the causes aforesaid other than such (if any) for which damages may have been recovered as aforesaid, by action upon such deed, to be delivered them for that purpose, and on which no endorsement shall be necessary, *provided*

Power of Overseers.

Proviso.

such action be commenced within two years after the expiration of the term ; and where such deed shall have before been put in suit, an attested Copy from the proper Office may be used and have the same force as the original. And no action brought by Overseers shall abate by the death of some of them, or by their being succeeded in Office, pending the action, but it shall proceed in the names of the original pla[i]ntiffs or the survivors of them.

And in case of elopement, any such apprentice or servant may be apprehended by any Justice of the peace of the County where he is bound or where he may be found, upon the complaint of the master or any other on his behalf, and returned to his master by any person to whom the Warrant may be directed, or may be first sent to the house of correction at the Justice's discretion. And every person enticing any such apprentice or servant to elope from his master, or harbouring him, knowing him to have eloped, shall be liable to the master's action for all damages sustained thereby. And the Court of Common Pleas either in the County where the Overseers binding, or the master of any apprentice or servant bound, live, may also upon complaint of such master, for gross misbehaviour, discharge such apprentice or servant from his apprenticeship or service, after due notice to such Overseers and hearing thereupon.

In case of elopement.

Persons enticing to elope liable.

And be it further enacted, That said Overseers shall have power to set to work or bind out to service by deed as aforesaid, for a term not exceeding one whole year at a time, all such persons, residing and lawfully settled in their respective Towns or Districts, or who have no such settlement within this Commonwealth, married or unmarried, upwards of Twenty one years of age, as are able of body, but have no visible means of support, who live idly and use and exercise no ordinary or daily lawful trade or bussiness to get their living by ; and also all persons who are liable by any law to be sent to the house of correction upon such terms and conditions as they shall think proper.

Overseers authorized respecting persons upwards of 21 years of age.

Provided always, That any person thinking him or herself aggrieved by the doings of said Overseers, in the premises, may apply by complaint to the Court of Common pleas, in the County where they are bound, or where the Overseers who bound them dwell, for relief ; which Court, after due notice to the Overseers, & to their mas-

Proviso.

ters, shall have power, after due hearing and examination, if they find sufficient cause, to liberate and discharge the party complaining from his or her master, and to release him or her from the care of the Overseers, otherwise to dismiss the complaint, and to give costs to either party or not, as the Court may think reasonable.

Authorized respecting those poor who live without the bounds of incorporated towns.

And be it further Enacted, that the poor persons standing in need of relief, living without the bounds of any incorporated town or district, shall be under the care of the Overseers of the poor, appointed in the adjoining town or district, wherein the inhabitants of such unincorporated place are usually taxed: And the same Overseers shall have the like authority to bind out the children of such poor persons, as they are vested with respecting the children of persons in like circumstances, inhabitants of the town or district in which they are appointed. And such Overseers may also set to work, or bind out, as aforesaid, for a space not exceeding one whole year at a time, all such persons above the age of twenty one years, married or unmarried, residing in their County, but without the bounds of any town or district, as are able of body, but have no visible means of support, or who live idly, using no ordinary, daily lawful trade or business to get their living by, or who are liable by any law, to be sent to the house of correction, and shall receive and apply their earnings, (deducting reasonable charges) to the support of [of] them or their families, if any they have, at their discretion, saving to such persons the like remedy for relief, if they think themselves agrieved, as is by this act provided for persons set to work, or bound out for like causes by Overseers of towns.

Keepers of houses of ill fame to be apprehended.

And for the prevention of poverty as well as lewdness, *Be it further Enacted*, that any person who shall be suspected of keeping a house of ill fame, resorted to for the purposes of prostitution or lewdness, may be apprehended, by Warrant from any Justice of the Peace, in the County, upon complaint of the Overseers of the town or district wherein such house shall be, & upon conviction of such offence before such Justice, or before the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, or presentment of the Grand Jury, may be ordered to the house of correction, for a term not exceeding one month, and after such conviction, shall not be allowed to keep lodgers or boarders, in any town or district, without the licence of the Overseers of the poor thereof.

And be it further Enacted, that it shall also be the duty of said Overseers, in their respective towns or districts, to provide for the immediate comfort and relief of all persons residing, or found therein, not belonging thereto, but having lawful settlements in other towns or districts, when they fall into distress, and stand in need of immediate relief, & untill they shall be removed to the places of their lawful settlements, the expences whereof, incurred within three months next before notice given to the town or district to be charged, as also of their removal, or of their burial, in case of their decease, may be sued for and recovered, either in a civil action, by the town or district incurring the same, against the town or district wherein such persons had such settlements, or in the method by complaint, hereafter prescribed in and by this act; *provided* such action or complaint for damages be commenced or preferred within two years after the cause of action arose, but not otherwise. And in such civil action, the settlement of the pauper shall not be contested by the defendants, if it hath been then adjudged to be in their town or district upon such process, as is hereinafter prescribed, otherwise it may be: And a recovery in such action shall bar the town or district, against which the same shall be had, from disputing the settlement of such pauper, in such town or district, with the town or district so recovering, in any future action or process, brought and prosecuted for the support or removal of such pauper.

Overseers authorized to provide for strangers —

at the expence of their own town.

Proviso.

And be it further Enacted, that all persons actually chargeable, or who through age or infirmity, idleness or dissoluteness, are likely to become chargeable to the places wherein they are found, but in which they have no lawful settlement, may be removed to the places of their lawful settlements, if they have any within the Commonwealth: And in order to effect such removal, (and also to recover the expences incurred for the relief of such persons, if said Overseers choose that mode in preference to a civil action) said Overseers may apply by complaint, to any Justice of the Peace in their County, not an inhabitant of their town or district, which complaint may be in substance, as follows

Paupers to be removed to their lawful settlements.

To a Justice of the peace in and for the County of The Town of in the said County, by the subscribers, Overseers of their poor, complain & shew that, now resident in said town, is poor, & become charge-

Form of complaint.

able (or is likely to become chargeable) to said town; & that his lawful settlement is in in the County of . Wherefore your Complainants pray, that after a due course of proceedings had, the lawful settlement of said may be adjudged to be in said town of ; & that he may be removed thither by Warrant accordingly. Your Complainants further pray judgment for damages, for expences incurred on account of said an account whereof is annexed, and for such as may accrue till the time of judgment, and for costs. Dated at said the day of A D 17 .

A. B. &c Overseers

Upon which complaint, such Justice shall make out and annex thereto a summons, directed to the Sheriff or his deputy, of the County wherein the town to be summoned is, in substance as follows.

— ss To the Sheriff of the County of or his deputy ;

GREETING.

Form of summons.

[SEAL] In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to summons the town of , in said County of to appear, if they see fit, before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace, in and for said County of at in said County of on the day of at of the Clock in the noon, to shew cause, if any they have, why the prayer of the above-written complaint should not be granted, by leaving an attested copy thereof, and of this summons, with the overseers of the said town of or some one of them, thirty days before said day of & make return hereof, and of your doings herein, unto me the said Justice, on or before the said day of . Hereof fail not.

Given under my hand and seal, the day of in the year of our Lord T P.

Party and witnesses to be summoned.

And such Officer shall serve and return the same, his being an inhabitant of the town to be summoned notwithstanding, for the same fees as for other writs of summons. And such Justice shall summons the party to be removed, & other witnesses, and may, if he see cause, compel the appearance of the former by Warrant, to be examined; and shall hear his objections to such removal, and may for

good cause continue the process once, not exceeding three months; and after due examination and hearing, whether the town summoned appears or not, shall proceed to give judgment for, or against the Complainants, and make a record thereof in substance as follows.

— ss At a Court held before me Esqr. a Justice
of the peace, in & for the County of at in said Form of judg-
ment.
County, on the day of in the year of our Lord,
one thousand seven hundred and the town of in
the County of Complainants against the town of
in the County of , shewing that now resident in
said town of is poor and become chargeable to
that town, (or is likely to become chargeable, as the fact
may be) and that said town of is the place of his law-
ful settlement, & praying it may be so adjudged; and that
he may be removed thither, (and for damages for ex-
pences incurred on account of such pauper, or that may
be incurred, & for costs) The parties appear (or the
complainants appear, but the said town of although
solemnly called doth not appear, but makes default, as
the case may be) and after due examination & hearing, &
on due consideration of the premises had, I do adjudge
the same to be true, and I do also adjudge, that the law-
ful settlement of the said is in the said town of ; &
that he be removed thither, and that the Complainants
recover costs (or that the complainants recover the sum
of damages, for expences incurred to this time for the
support of said , as the case may require) (or if in
favor of the town complained of, say, I do adjudge that
the said is not likely to become chargeable to said
town of or that the lawful settlement of said is
not in said town of & that said town of recover
costs) Recorded by me

Justice of the Peace.

No costs however, to be awarded for such town, if de-
faulted; but if the complaint be not entered, or be dis-
continued, or not prosecuted, the town complained of
appearing, & praying therefor, shall recover costs. And
upon judgment of removal, such Justice may issue his
Warrant of removal, directed to, and to be executed by
any Constable of the town, from whence the person is to
be removed, or to any particular person by name, in the
following form.

Costs to be
awarded, as the
case may be.

Warrant of
removal.

— ss To any Constable of the town of in the
County of or to GREETING.

[SEAL] Whereas at a Court held on before me
Esqr. a Justice of the peace, in & for the County of
on the day of it was adjudged by me the said
Justice that now resident in said town of is charge-
able (or likely to become chargeable, as the case may be)
thereto; that his lawful settlement is in the town of in
the County of and that he be removed thither. I do
therefore, in the name of the Commonwealth of Massa-
chusetts, hereby authorize and require you forthwith to
take, remove and convey by land or water, as may be
most convenient, the said to the said town of , and
him deliver to the Overseers of the poor thereof, or some
one of them, who are hereby required to receive and pro-
vide for him, as an inhabitant of that town. And of this
Warrant, & of your doings herein, you are to make return
to me, as soon as may be, after you shall have executed
the same.

Given under my hand and seal the day of in the
year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and .

J P.

Overseers to
provide.

And such Overseers shall be obliged to receive and pro-
vide for such person accordingly; and said Justice may
also award execution for damages & costs; and may tax
in costs a reasonable sum, for the expence of removal;
and the execution may be issued to, and may be executed
by a proper officer, in the County where the town is,
against which it issues. And in all the proceedings afore-
said, the word *district* shall be inserted, instead of the
word *town*, where the cases require it.

Execution may
be issued against
the town.

Proviso.

Provided always, that either party, as also any person
who shall be adjudged likely to become chargeable, &
ordered to be removed, agrieved at the judgment of such
Justice, may appeal therefrom to the next Court of Com-
mon pleas, to be holden in & for the same County, and
shall produce copies, and enter and prosecute the same as
other appeals are. And said Court shall hear and deter-
mine the same without a Jury, & may award like Warrant
for removal, and like Execution for damages and costs,
mutatis mutandis; or may on complaint affirm the judg-
ment of the Justice with additional damages and costs,
where the appeal is not prosecuted, and carry such judg-
ment into execution.

And be it further Enacted, that such complaint may be originally made by said Overseers, if they see fit, to the Court of Common pleas in their County, by filing the same with the Clerk of said Court, and procuring a like summons from him, *mutatis mutandis*, and causing the same to be served in time and manner as aforesaid, as also summons for the party to be removed, and for witnesses; and such Court, upon such complaint, shall proceed to hear, determine, adjudge, and grant Warrant and Execution, in the same manner as in cases coming before them by appeal, and in all their adjudications in the premises, they shall state the facts upon which their judgments are founded, to the end that error therein, if any, may be corrected by writ of error, in the Supreme Judicial Court, to which either party agrieved shall be intitled, if purchased within a year, but not otherwise, and upon which, if judgment be reversed, such judgment shall be given, as ought to have been given below, & the plaintiffs in error shall be restored to all they lost by such erroneous judgment with costs; but if the judgment be affirmed the defendants shall recover costs. And said Supreme Judicial Court may send to said Courts of Common pleas, and require them to state other facts, when it shall appear by suggestion or otherwise, that some material ones were omitted in the statement aforesaid, or to explain such as do not appear to the Court to be clearly stated; unless a new statement be agreed to by the parties. And depositions may be used before the Justice, as well as Court of Common pleas, on the trial of such complaints, when taken legally, and for legal cause. And when expences for support of a pauper are prayed for in such complaint, the same complaint may be proceeded upon to judgment, so far as respects his settlement, and such expences, the decease of the pauper pending the complaint notwithstanding. But all complaints & suits for removal of paupers, or recovery of expences for their support to be made and prosecuted by the town of Boston in the County of Suffolk, shall be made and prosecuted either in the County of Middlesex or Norfolk, and all such complaints and suits to be made or prosecuted by the town of Sherburne, in the County of Nantucket, or by any town in the County of Duke's County, shall be made and prosecuted either in the County of Bristol or Barnstable.

Complaint to be made by Overseers.

Court of Common Pleas to hear and determine.

Parties may appeal.

Complaints — where to be prosecuted.

Proviso.

Provided always, & be it further Enacted, that said Overseers may in all cases, if they judge it expedient, previous to any such application to any Justice of the Peace, or Court of Common Pleas, send a written notification, stating the facts relating to any person actually become chargeable to their town or district, to one or more of the Overseers of the place where his settlement is supposed to be, and requesting them to remove him, which they shall have power to do by a written order, directed to any particular person by name, who is hereby authorized and required to obey the same; and if such removal is not effected, nor objected to by them in writing after such notice, to be delivered in writing within two months after such notice to the Overseers of the town or district requesting such removal, or to some one of them, then such Overseers may remove such person by land or water, as is most convenient, by a written order directed to, & to be served by any persons, who shall be particularly mentioned in such order, to said place of his supposed settlement, the Overseers whereof, shall be obliged to receive and provide for him, & their town or district shall be liable for the expences of his support and removal, to be recovered by action, as aforesaid, by the town or district incurring the same, and shall be barred from contesting the question of settlement with the plaintiffs in such action. And if any person lawfully removed, agreeably to this act, to the place of his lawful settlement within this Commonwealth, shall voluntarily return to the town or district from which he was removed, without their consent, he shall be deemed a vagabond, and upon conviction thereof before any Justice of the peace in the same County, may be sent to the house of correction.

Overseers to
order burials.

And be it further Enacted, that said Overseers shall also relieve and support, and in case of their decease, decently bury all poor persons residing or found in their towns or districts, having no lawful settlements within this Commonwealth, when they stand in need; and may employ them as other paupers may be; the expence whereof may be recovered of their relations, if they have any, chargeable by law for their support, in manner herein before pointed out; otherwise it shall be paid out of the Treasury of the Commonwealth by Warrant from the Governor, by and with advice of Council, an account thereof having been first exhibited to, and examined and

allowed by the General Court. And upon complaint of such Overseers, any Justice of the Peace in their County may by Warrant directed to, & which may be executed by any Constable of their town or district, or any particular person by name, cause such pauper to be sent and conveyed by land or water, to any other State, or to any place beyond sea, where he belongs, if the Justice thinks proper, if he may be conveniently removed, at the expence of the Commonwealth; but if he cannot be so removed, he may be sent to, and relieved, and employed in the house of correction, or work-house, at the public expence. And every town and district shall be holden to pay any expence which shall be necessarily incurred for the relief of any pauper, by any inhabitant not liable by law for his or her support, after notice and request made to the overseers of the said town or district, & untill provision shall be made by them.

Justices, on complaint, may cause paupers to be removed.

And be it further Enacted, that in all actions & prosecutions by complaint founded on this act, for or against any town or district, or against any individual, the Overseers of the poor thereof, or any person, by writing under their hands appointed, shall & may appear, prosecute or defend the same to final judgment and execution, in behalf of such town or district; & every act or thing required, or authorised, by them to be done by this act, may be done by them, or the major part of them.

Overseers empowered to prosecute and defend, in behalf of towns.

And be it further Enacted, that if any person shall bring and leave any poor & indigent person in any town or district in this Commonwealth, wherein such pauper is not lawfully settled, knowing him to be poor & indigent, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty pounds, for every such offence, to be sued for and recovered by, and to the use of such town or district by action of debt, in any Court proper to try the same.

Forfeiture, in case.

And be it further Enacted, that if any master or other person, having charge of any vessel, shall therein bring into, and land, or suffer to be landed in any place within this Commonwealth, any person, before that time convicted in any other State, or in any foreign Country of any infamous crime, or any for which he hath been sentenced to transportation, knowing of such conviction, or having reason to suspect it, or any person of a notoriously dissolute, infamous and abandoned life and character, knowing him or her to be such, shall for every such

Masters of vessels prohibited from bringing in infamous persons.

offence forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds, one half thereof to the use of the Commonwealth, & the other half to the use of any person being a citizen of, and residing in this Commonwealth, who shall prosecute & sue for the same, by action of debt as aforesaid.

And in order to prevent charge to the Commonwealth, or any towns or districts therein, by the importation of such convicts, or of infirm and vicious persons :

Masters of ves-
sels, on arrival,
to make report
of passengers.

Be it further Enacted, that the Master, or any other person, having charge of any vessel arriving at any place within this Commonwealth, with any passengers on board, from any foreign dominion or Country, without the United States of America, shall within forty eight hours after such arrival, make a report in writing under his hand, of all such passengers, their names, nation, age, character and condition, so far as hath come to his knowledge, to the Overseers of the poor of the town or district, at, or nearest to which such vessel shall arrive, who shall record the same in a book kept for that purpose in their office. And every such master or other person, that shall neglect to make such report, or that shall wittingly and willingly make a false one, shall for each of those offences forfeit the sum of fifty pounds, to be sued for and recovered, by action of debt as aforesaid, by, and to the use of such town or district.

Act repealed.

And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that an Act intituled, “ An Act providing for the support of the poor,” passed the fourteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine, and all other laws, and parts of laws heretofore made and passed, relative to the support, employment, binding, warning out, or removal of the poor be, and the same hereby are repealed ; saving that they shall remain in force as to all actions or prosecutions already commenced, and now pending upon them, saving also, that all acts and things already lawfully done and completed, under and by force of them, be, and hereby are confirmed and declared to be valid ; & saving further that this repeal shall not be construed to extend to an act intituled, “ An Act for suppressing and punishing of rogues, vagabonds, common beggars, & other idle, disorderly and lewd persons,” passed the twenty sixth day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight ; nor to an act intituled, “ An Act for erecting

Exceptions.

work-houses for the reception and imploymēt of the idle & indigent” passed the tenth day of January in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine; nor to an act passed the present sessions of the General Court intituled, “An Act ascertaining what shall constitute a legal settlement of any person, in any town or district within this Commonwealth, so as to intitle him to support therein, in case he becomes poor and stands in need of relief, and for repealing all laws heretofore made respecting such settlement.”

Approved February 26, 1794.

1793. — Chapter 60.

[January Session, ch. 35.]

AN ACT IN ADDITION TO AN ACT INTITLED “AN ACT TO INCORPORATE A NUMBER OF INHABITANTS OF THE TOWNS OF ROCHESTER AND MIDDLEBOROUGH, IN THE COUNTY OF PLYMOUTH AND FREETOWN IN THE COUNTY OF BRISTOL INTO A SEPARATE PRECINCT, BY THE NAME OF THE CONGREGATIONAL PRECINCT IN ROCHESTER, MIDDLEBOROUGH AND FREETOWN.”

Whereas by said Act it was enacted, that the third Parish in Rochester should continue to have existance for one year, after the passing of said act, for certain purposes therein mentioned, which time is found by experience to be insufficient for the intended purposes.

Preamble.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the existance of the said third parish in Rochester, shall be continued untill the twenty third day of March, in the year of our Lord, seventeen hundred and ninety five, with corporate powers to enforce the collection of taxes, recovery of their just demands and payment of their debts.

Existence of the parish extended.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Clerk and Treasurer of said Congregational Precinct respectively and successively, be authorized to receive the records and papers severally belonging to the offices of the Clerk and Treasurer of said third parish, as soon as the corporate existence thereof shall cease; and that the Clerk and Treasurer of said Precinct for the time being, be severally authorized to grant, and officially and legally to attest all copies therefrom, that may hereafter be found necessary, by any request whatever.

Clerk and Treasurer authorized for certain purposes.

Approved February 26, 1794.