

shall be sworn to the faithfull discharge of their duty & shall continue in office untill others shall be chosen & sworn in their stead ; — which officers when sworn as afore-said, may exercise the same power & authority in performing the duties of their Appointment, as Town Officers of the like Description. *Approved March 3, 1798.*

1797. — Chapter 82.

[January Session, ch. 45]

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE PROPRIETORS OF SOCIAL LIBRARIES TO MANAGE THE SAME.

SECT. 1. *Be it Enacted by the Senate & House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same,* that any seven or more persons capable of contracting in any towns or Districts in this Commonwealth, who have or shall become Proprietors in common of any Library, may form themselves into a Society or body politic for the express purposes of holding, encreasing, preserving and using such library ; and to that end, any five or more of them may apply in writing by them signed, to any Justice of the peace within the County wherein the same Town or District may be, stating the purposes of their meeting, and requesting him to issue his Warrant for calling a meeting of the said proprietors, which Justice may grant his warrant to some one of them, directing him to call a meeting of the said Proprietors at the time and place & for the purposes in such warrant expressed ; which proprietors shall notify such meeting by posting up the substance of said warrant in some public place in the said town or district where the said library shall be kept, seven days at least before the time of said meeting.

Persons may form themselves into a Library Society.

How to call a meeting.

SECT. 2. *Be it further Enacted* that any seven or more of the proprietors of such library, met in pursuance of such notice, shall have power to choose a Moderator, Clerk, Librarian, Collector, Treasurer & other necessary officers & committees ; which Clerk shall be sworn to the faithful & impartial performance of his duties ; & the said proprietors when so incorporated, shall have power to raise such monies by assessments on the several shares in such library as they may judge necessary for preserving & increasing the same and for the management the affairs of the Corporation ; to make by laws for the due regula-

May choose Officers.

May raise money.

tion of its concerns, not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth & to annex & recover penalties for any breach of such Bye-laws not exceeding three dollars for any one breach thereof.

Name.

SECT. 3. *Be it further Enacted* that the proprietors of any such Library so incorporated shall be called & known by the name of the proprietors of the Social Library in the Town of ———, & by that name shall sue & be sued, prosecute & defend, plead & be impleaded in all actions and processes in law; & when there shall be more than one such Library in any town or district, the Proprietors thereof shall be known & called by the name of “The Proprietors of the second, third, fourth, &c. (as the case may be) Social Library in the Town of ———.”

May sue, &c.

Duties and powers.

SECT. 4. *And be it further Enacted* that when any such meeting shall be dissolved, the Proprietors may again incorporate themselves and proceed in all respects as aforesaid; and in any meetings of such proprietors there shall be allowed one vote for each share. And the Proprietors of any such Library, shall have power to hold to them, their Successors and Assigns real or personal estate to the amount of five hundred dollars over & above the value of their books, and shall have power at any regular meeting, to fix the mode & manner of calling future Meetings.

Approved March 3, 1798.