

gates to serve them in assembly in the same manner as by the charter and laws of this province is directed in respect to the other counties, which said representatives so chosen shall be members of the general assembly of this province of Pennsylvania and sit and act as such as fully and freely as any of the representatives for the other counties within this province do, may, can or ought to do.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That so much of the said act of general assembly passed in the twenty-fifth year of the reign of His late Majesty George the Second, to which this act is a supplement, as relates to the election of one member of assembly for the said county, shall be and is hereby declared to be repealed.

Passed December 24, 1774. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, July 21, 1775, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXXII, and the note to the Act of Assembly passed March 11, 1752, Chapter 393.

CHAPTER DCCII.

AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF HENRY WILLIAM STIEGELL, A LANGUISHING PRISONER IN THE GAOL OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPRISONMENT OF HIS PERSON.

Whereas it hath been represented to the assembly of this province by the petition of Henry William Stiegel that he is a languishing prisoner in the gaol of the county of Philadelphia and that although he is willing to assign over all his effects for the use of his creditors for the payment of his debts and to discharge such as shall thereafter remain unpaid as soon as by his industry he can find means of satisfying such creditors; yet by his imprisonment he is disabled from putting in execution his just intentions and is reduced to great distress:

[Section I.] Be it therefore enacted by the Honorable John Penn, Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Prov-

ince of Pennsylvania, by and with the consent and advice of the representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That the justices of the county courts of common pleas for the county of Philadelphia or any three of them, on application to them for that purpose in writing made by the said Henry William Stiegell, shall appoint a certain day and place for holding a special court of common pleas, whereof due notice in writing shall be given to the creditor or creditors at whose suits he stands charged and all other his creditors that can be known to the court by leaving the same in writing at his, her or their last place of abode, at which time and place so appointed by the said court the said justices or any three of them shall by an order or rule of the said court cause the said Henry William Stiegell to be brought before them, and the said court upon sufficient proof of the said notice being given to all and every such creditors, and upon his exhibiting and delivering to the said court a full, true and perfect account in writing of all his real and personal estate, debts [credit] and effects, shall then and there in the presence of the said creditor or creditors, if he or they will be present, administer to the said Henry William Stiegell an oath to the following effect, to wit:

That the account by him delivered into that honorable court in his petition to the said court doth contain a true and perfect account of his real and personal estate, debts, credits and effects whatsoever which he or any in trust for him have or at the time of his said petition had or is or was in any respect entitled to in possession, remainder or reversion (excepting the wearing apparel and bedding for himself and family not exceeding ten pounds in value in the whole), and that he has not at any time since his imprisonment or before directly or indirectly sold, leased, assigned or otherwise disposed of or made over in trust for himself or otherwise, other than as mentioned in such account, any part of his lands, estate, goods, stock, money, debts or other real or personal estate, whereby to have or expect any benefit or profit to himself or family or to defraud any of his creditors to whom he is indebted.

And the said Henry William Stiegell having taken such oath in open court and making an assignment to one or more of his creditors, as the said court shall order and direct, in trust for

all his creditors, of all his lands, goods and effects contained in such account by a short indorsement thereon, by which said assignment the estate, interest and property of the lands, goods and effects so assigned shall be vested in the person or persons to whom such assignment shall be made, who may take possession of the same in his or their own name or names, after which no release of the said prisoner, his executors or administrators shall be any discharge against or bar to the assignees aforesaid; then the said court shall cause and order the said prisoner to be discharged from his imprisonment aforesaid; but in case the person or persons at whose suit the said prisoner is held and detained or any other creditor or creditors shall not [be] satisfied with the truth of such oath as aforesaid, but shall desire further time to inform him, her or themselves of the matters contained therein, the said court may and shall remand the said prisoner and direct such prisoner so remanded and the person or persons dissatisfied with such oath to appear at another day to be appointed by the said court, not less than one month from the time of making such oath; and if at such second day so to be appointed the creditor or creditors dissatisfied with such oath shall make default in appearing, or in case he or they shall appear but shall be unable to discover any estate or effects of such prisoner omitted in such account as aforesaid delivered into the said court, or to show any probability of his being forsworn or to have declared falsely in the said oath, then the said court shall immediately cause the said prisoner to be discharged upon such assignment of his estate and effects; but in case the said prisoner shall refuse to take the said oath, or having taken the same shall be detected of falsity therein, he shall be presently remanded.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the person of the said Henry William Stiegell after such his discharge shall not at any time hereafter be imprisoned for any debts before the time of such discharge contracted.

[Provided] nevertheless, That the discharge of the said prisoner by virtue of this act shall not acquit or discharge any other person from such debts, sum or sums of money for which such

person now is bound or engaged with the said prisoner, nor any lands, goods, chattels or effects which he may hereafter acquire.

[Section III.] Provided also, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That nothing in this act contained shall extend to discharge the person of the said prisoner from imprisonment or from being liable to be sued, prosecuted or imprisoned for any debt due to the crown, and that the said debts shall be first paid by the said trustees out of the moneys which shall come to their hands from the effects so assigned if the same shall be sufficient [nor for any debt due to any distant or absent creditor to whom notice shall not have been given pursuant to the direction of this act.]

[Section IV.] Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the said prisoner shall upon any indictment for taking a false and corrupt oath in any matter or thing contained in the said oath be convicted by his own confession or by the verdict of twelve men he shall suffer all the pains, penalties and disabilities which by law may be inflicted on persons convicted of willful and corrupt perjury and shall likewise be liable to be arrested, taken and imprisoned on any process *de novo* and charged in execution for the same debt in the same manner as if he had never been in execution or discharged before, and shall forever after be barred of any benefit of this act.

Passed December 24, 1774. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, July 21, 1775, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXXII.