

## CHAPTER CMLXII.

AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR THE BETTER EMPLOYMENT OF THE POOR OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, THE DISTRICT OF SOUTHWARK, THE TOWNSHIPS OF MOYAMENSING, PASSYUNK AND THE NORTHERN LIBERTIES,"<sup>1</sup> AND TO REVIVE AND PERPETUATE AN ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR,"<sup>2</sup> AND FOR REPEALING TWO OTHER ACTS HEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, the poor within the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark and townships of Moyamensing and the Northern Liberties have become very burdensome and expensive to the inhabitants, and the expense thereof is like to increase:

And whereas, for remedy thereof, by employing the said poor, an act of assembly was passed on the eighth day of February, in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-six, in the late province of Pennsylvania, entitled "An act for the better employment of the poor of the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark, the townships of Moyamensing, Passyunk and the Northern Liberties,"<sup>1</sup> whereby all persons who should contribute the sum of ten pounds or more were incorporated by the name of "Contributors to the relief and employment of the poor in the city of Philadelphia;" and such of the said contributors as should think fit were enabled [to meet] on the second Monday in the month of May then next following, and on the second Monday in the month of May yearly, forever, at some convenient place in the said city, and then and there to choose twelve persons of their own number to be managers of the said contributions and of the buildings to be erected for the reception, employment and relief of the poor of the said city, district and townships in pursuance of the said act:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas, by the decease of many of the contributors and the legal disability of others of the said contributors who yet survive, the choosing of the managers

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<sup>1</sup> Passed February 8, 1766, Chapter 534.

<sup>2</sup> Passed March 9, 1771, Chapter 635.

and the burden of serving in that office has devolved upon a small number of persons, and it is now become difficult to procure a succession of managers to superintend the almshouse and the house of employment in the said city, and to provide for, employ and relieve the poor aforesaid out of the said surviving contributors, who are qualified to elect or to be elected as aforesaid:

For remedy whereof:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That in case the contributors aforesaid shall not meet on the second Monday in May next, or in any succeeding year, in the said city, and choose twelve managers as aforesaid, or if the said contributors shall meet on the second Monday in May next, or in any future year, and having made such choice of managers as aforesaid, the persons then and there chosen, or a majority of them, shall not meet together on the third Monday of the same month, in the said city, as by the said act they were directed and enjoined, then and in such case, and upon such neglect, whether in the month of May next or in the month of May in any future year, the overseers of the poor of the said city of Philadelphia, district of Southwark and townships of Moyamensing, and the Northern Liberties, for the time being, shall become invested with all and singular the powers, authorities, rights, claims, demands, interest and estate, real, personal and mixed, which then shall be of the said corporation, in as ample a manner and for the same uses and purposes as the same are or were invested in, or ought to be exercised, possessed or enjoyed by the said corporation.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said overseers of the poor for the time being, whenever the succession of the said managers shall fail as aforesaid, shall become a body politic and corporate in law, for the purpose of superintending the house of employment, and the other purposes for which the said managers were appointed and constituted as aforesaid, by the name of "The Guardians of the Poor in the City of Philadelphia,"

with all the powers and faculties of a body politic and corporate, and the said guardians of the poor in the city of Philadelphia may hold real estates, not exceeding the yearly value of two thousand pounds, and may take and receive any grant, gift, bequest or alienation of goods and chattels whatsoever.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said eventual corporation of the guardians of the poor in the city of Philadelphia shall half-yearly appoint six of their number to superintend the almshouse and house of employment, to exercise and perform all the authorities of the present managers of the said institution; and the said six overseers shall, during their continuation as managers as aforesaid, be exempted from all other duties of the said office of overseers, and the whole duties thereof shall be performed by the rest of the said overseers.

[Section IV.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this act, any overseer of the poor of the said city, district and townships may, with the consent of any one justice of the peace, afford relief to the sudden necessity of any poor person, not exceeding the value of three pounds within three months.

[Section V.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That one-half of the overseers of the poor who shall be nominated and shall take upon themselves the duties of the said office within the said city, district and townships, on the twenty-fifth day of March next, or afterwards, as immediate successors of the present overseers of the [poor of the] said city, district and townships, shall not continue in office longer than six calendar months and the other half of the said overseers shall continue in office until the twenty-fifth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three; and that on the twenty-fifth day of September next, or within ten days after, the justices of the peace of the city and county of Philadelphia, or any three or more of them, shall meet at the county court house in the said city, and then and there appoint and constitute successors to serve for one year, in the stead of those who shall be appointed as aforesaid for six months; and so every twenty-fifth day of March, and

every twenty-fifth day of September, yearly, for and during the continuance of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of the poor,"<sup>1</sup> the said justices shall meet at the said court-house, and shall then and there appoint and constitute one-half of the said overseers half-yearly, in order that there may be always some experienced persons in office. And if any person who shall be appointed an overseer of the poor, in pursuance of this act, shall refuse or neglect to serve in the said office, he shall be fined in like sum, and the said fine shall be levied in like manner and go to the same uses, as if such person had been appointed on the twenty-fifth day of March and had refused or neglected to serve thereupon.

(Section VII, P. L.) And whereas, divers disorderly persons, by their own lewdness, drunkenness or other evil practices, have fallen sick and become chargeable to the said city, district and townships, and have been unwilling or unable to reimburse the expenses which have been incurred in order to their cure and recovery; and it may be some relief to the inhabitants of the said city, district and townships, who have been put to great charge by such disorderly persons, and may deter such disorderly persons from returning to their former evil practices if such disorderly persons were hereafter obliged to make compensation by servitude:

[Section VI.] (Section VIII, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this act, the overseers of the poor of the said city, district and townships, or any two of them, with the approbation and concurrence of any two justices of the peace of the city and county of Philadelphia, shall, and they are hereby authorized to bind out, by indenture or deed poll, any such disorderly persons to any master or mistress, and his or her assigns, who will advance and pay such consideration for such service as the said overseers shall think fit to accept for the same. Provided always, That no married man or woman nor any person of the age of forty years and upwards shall be liable to be bound by indenture or deed poll as aforesaid, and that no such binding shall be for a longer term than will be sufficient to reimburse the overseers aforesaid the expenses incurred, in behalf and

on account of such person, and so as the same do not exceed in the whole the space of three years.

(Section IX, P. L.) And whereas, the act, entitled "An act for the relief of the poor,"<sup>1</sup> passed the ninth day of March, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-one,<sup>1</sup> hath been found by experience to be of great public utility:

[Section VII.] (Section X, P. L.) Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said act, and every article, clause, matter and thing therein contained, is hereby revived, re-enacted and made perpetual, except the clause limiting the continuance thereof, and such other parts thereof as are hereby altered, amended and supplied or relate to the mayor, recorder and alderman of the city of Philadelphia, whose authority, jurisdiction and power, granted by the said act, shall be exercised by the justices of the peace of the said city, or any three of them, agreeable to the directions of the act passed the fourteenth day of March, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.<sup>2</sup>

[Section VIII.] (Section XI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That an act, entitled "An act for the better relief of the poor of the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark and the townships of Moyamensing, Passyunk and the Northern Liberties, in the county of Philadelphia,"<sup>3</sup> passed the second day of April, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, and also an act, entitled "An act for the relief of the poor,"<sup>4</sup> passed the twenty-seventh day of November, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, are hereby repealed and made void.

[Section IX.] (Section XII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That so much of the act, entitled "An act for the better employment of the poor of the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark, the townships of Moyamensing, Passyunk and Northern Liberties,"<sup>5</sup> passed the eighth day of February, in the year one thousand seven hundred and

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<sup>1</sup> Passed March 9, 1771, Chapter 635.

<sup>2</sup> Passed March 14, 1777, Chapter 746.

<sup>3</sup> Passed April 2, 1779, Chapter 839.

<sup>4</sup> Passed November 27, 1779, Chapter 873.

<sup>5</sup> Passed February 8, 1766, Chapter 534.

sixty-six, as incorporates the township of Passyunk with the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark and the townships of Moyamensing and Northern Liberties is hereby repealed and made void.

Passed March 25, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p. 486, etc., See the Act of Assembly passed March 27, 1789, Chapter 1410; June 13, 1836, P. L. 541.

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### CHAPTER CMLXIII.

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#### AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE BANK OF NORTH AMERICA.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, the United States in Congress assembled, from a conviction of the support which the finances of the United States would receive from the establishment of a national bank, passed an ordinance to incorporate the subscribers for this purpose, by the name and style of "The President, Directors and Company of the Bank of North America:"

And whereas, the president and directors of the said bank have applied to this house for a similar act of incorporation, which request it is proper and reasonable to grant:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That those who are, and those who shall become subscribers to the said bank, be and forever hereafter shall be a corporation and body politic to all intents and purposes, by the name and style of "The President, Directors and Company of the Bank of North America."

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation are hereby declared and made able and capable in law to have, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy and retain lands, rents, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels and effects of what kind, nature or quality soever, to the amount of ten millions of Spanish silver milled dollars, and no more. And also to sell, grant, demise,