

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on the Sixth Day of June, 1770, in the Tenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Third, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. being the First Session of the Fifth General Assembly convened in the said Province.

10 George III – Chapter 2

An Act in further Amendment of an Addition to an Act made in the third Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled "An Act to enable the several Townships within this Province to maintain their Poor."

Whereas the restraining the inhabitants of the several townships in this province, to meet only once a year in order to make provision for their poor, is found very inconvenient; be it enacted by the Governor, council, and assembly, that from and after the publication of this act, it shall and may be lawful for the said inhabitants to hold two meetings annually, if necessary, to make provision for their poor, and that the time for holding the said meetings shall be on the first Monday in April, and on the first Monday in November, and in case the business to be transacted at the said meetings cannot be completed on the said days, it shall and may be lawful for the chairman, with the consent of the majority of the freeholders then present, to adjourn the same to the day following, or to one other day; any law, usage, or custom to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

II. And be it also enacted, that if the money voted for the support of the poor for the current year should not be sufficient for that purpose, the said freeholders in such their next meeting shall be, and they are hereby empowered to vote such further sums as shall be thought necessary to make good such deficiency.

III. And be it further enacted, that the overseers of the poor shall for the future account on oath, if required, before the general sessions of the peace held next after the expiration of their office, for all monies raised and disbursed by them for the support of the poor.

IV. And whereas the appointing twelve assessors for assessing the sums voted for the support of the poor, is in many respects found inconvenient: be it enacted, that for the future the said assessments shall be made in the several townships (Halifax excepted) by five freeholders, and no more; any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

V. And be it also enacted, that in case of the neglect or refusal of the freeholders of any township to meet and make provision for their poor, as is directed in and by this act, the justices of the peace, in the general sessions held for the county wherein such township shall be, shall on the application of the overseers of the poor, amerce such township in such a sum as shall appear to them to be necessary for the purposes aforesaid, and shall appoint five freeholders for assessing the same in the several townships, (Halifax excepted) and the sum so amerced shall be levied, paid, and applied for the support of the poor of such township; and if the said assessors so appointed shall refuse or neglect to serve in the said

office, they shall be subject to a fine of forty shillings each, for the use of the poor, which shall, on failure of payment, be levied by a warrant of distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person or persons so refusing or neglecting, and others shall be appointed in their stead.

VI. And whereas in and by an act made in the eight year of his present Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act in further addition to, and amendment of an act made in the third year of his present Majesty's reign, intituled 'an act to enable the inhabitants of the several townships within this province to maintain their poor.'" The fine imposed on the overseers of the poor for neglecting to issue their precepts to the constables of the several townships, requiring them to notify the inhabitants to meet on the day appointed by the said act, and make provision for the support of the poor, is directed to be paid to the treasurer of the province; be it enacted, that the said fine shall for the future be paid to the treasurer of the county, for the use of the poor of the township for which such overseers so neglecting shall be appointed, and that the said precept shall have respect to the days appointed by this act.

VII. And be it also enacted, that the overseers of the poor in every township, shall enter their proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose, and at the expiration of their office, they shall deliver the same to their successors.