

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Wednesday the first day of July, 1761, and in the first year of His Majesty's Reign, and there continued by several prorogations until the 19th day of October, 1763, in the Third Year of His Majesty's Reign.

3 George III – Chapter 7 (Session 2)

An Act to enable the Inhabitants of the several Townships within this Province, to Maintain their Poor.

Be it enacted, by the Lieutenant Governor, Council, and Assembly, that from and after the publication hereof, it shall and may be lawful for the freeholders of the township within this Province, where there are fifty or more families freeholders resident, to meet on the first Monday in January annually: Previous notice being given by the constables of such townships respectively (who are hereby required to notify the same to the freeholders of each township, at least ten days before the time of meeting) of the time and place of meeting in such township, at which meeting the said freeholders then and there held, a chairman being first chosen, the freeholders shall proceed to choose twelve inhabitants of the said township, any nine of which to be a quorum; who are hereby empowered to assess the inhabitants of said township for such sum, as shall be granted by the said freeholders for the relief of their poor.

And be it further enacted, that the said freeholders in such their annual meeting, shall be and are hereby empowered to vote such sums of money as they shall judge necessary for the current year, to support and maintain their poor.

And be it also further enacted, that the twelve inhabitants so elected in the meeting annually, or any nine of them, shall be, and are hereby empowered to assess the freeholders, and other inhabitants, in just and equal proportion as near as may be, for the monies voted as aforesaid; and each particular person being assessed according to his known estates, either real or personal, for the purpose aforesaid, shall pay the same to such person or persons as shall be appointed to collect and receive the same, by the said elected inhabitants, or any nine of them, and if any person so assessed, shall refuse or neglect to pay said assessment, the same shall and may be levied by Warrant of Distress, from any one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the township, or county wherein such person shall reside.

Provided nevertheless, that if any person shall think himself over rated; he may appeal for redress to the next General Sessions of the Peace of the said county, and the Justices thereof, are hereby required and empower'd, to examine, hear, and determine, all and every such appeal or complaint, and to give redress, as they in their judgement shall think equitable, and such their order and judgement, shall be final and bind all parties.

And be it enacted, that the person or persons appointed to collect the assessments aforesaid, shall once in three months, account with and pay into the hands of the overseers of the poor of said township, all such sums of money as he or they may have received, and upon his or their neglect or refusal, to account and pay in the same as aforesaid, such person or persons, shall and may be prosecuted by the overseers of the poor for the time being, by bill, plaint, or information, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record within this Province.

And be it also enacted, that the overseers of the poor of each township respectively, shall dispose of the monies voted and received for the purpose beforemention'd, only, and they are hereby required and directed, to render an account thereof to their successors, and to pay into their hands any surplus of money, that may remain in their hands not distributed.

And be it further enacted, that if any of the twelve inhabitants chosen at the annual meeting as aforesaid, to make the assessment aforesaid, or the person or persons appointed to collect the same, shall refuse to serve in their respective offices, each person so refusing shall forfeit and pay to the overseers of the poor, for the use of the poor of said township the sum of forty shillings.

Published according to law, the 28th day of November 1763.