

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on the fifth day of December 1785, in the Twenty Sixth Year of his said Majesty's Reign, and there continued by several Prorogations unto the Twenty Fifth Day of February, 1790, in the Thirtieth Year of his Majesty's Reign, being the Fourth Session of the Sixth General Assembly convened in the said Province.

30 George III – Chapter 12

An Act, intituled, "An Act for appointing Commissioners to superintend and direct the Maintenance and Support of certain Poor Persons known by the general Appellation of Transient Poor."

Whereas the maintenance and support of certain poor persons known by the general appellation of transient poor, are found extremely burthensome and expensive to this province, and tend greatly to the encouragement of idleness and vice.

I. Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant Governor, Council, and House of Assembly, that from and after the first of May next ensuing, no poor person whatever shall be received into the work-house or poor-house in Halifax, or any other place in this province under the designation of transient poor or persons to be maintained from the province treasury, but each town shall maintain their own poor, agreeable to an act passed in the tenth year of his present Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the settlement of the Poor in the several townships within this Province."

And whereas it is necessary to provide a maintenance for such poor as heretofore have been deemed and received as provincial or transient poor, that their maintenance and support should be under the direction and controul of certain commissioners hereafter to be appointed by his excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time being.

II. Be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for the said commissioner on such appointment as aforesaid, and full power and authority is hereby given to the said commissioners to take under their care and direction such poor persons as are at present maintained out of the public revenue of this province, and that the said commissioners on being appointed as aforesaid, shall faithfully examine and inspect the various descriptions of poor persons in the town of Halifax, and on such examination and inspection to receive and take under their care and direction such poor persons now maintained as transient poor as to them the said commissioners may appear to be without any legal settlement in any particular town within this province, and that the said commissioners shall and may either continue the said poor in the poor house in Halifax or place them out to board collectively to separately in any part of the province, or take such other ways and means for the maintenance and support of such poor as to the said commissioners shall seem proper, and least expensive to the public.

III. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for the commissioners aforesaid, by indenture or otherwise to apprentice, or bind out to such person or persons as in their discretion shall seem proper, all, or any of such minor or minors as now are included among the transient poor at present supported out of the revenue of this province, that is to say, males until they shall respectively arrive at the age of twenty one years, and the females until they shall respectively attain to the age of eighteen years, and the said commissioners are hereby further authorized and empowered to make and enter into indentures or agreements under seal with any person or persons for the purposes aforesaid, and pay to such person or persons such sum or sums of money, as to the said commissioners shall appear a reasonable consideration for the taking and bringing up such minors or apprentices in manner aforesaid.

IV. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the publication of this act, it shall and may be lawful for his Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being, to draw by warrant on the treasury of this province, from time to time for such sum or sums of money as may be necessary for the maintenance and support of the said poor, and for the apprenticing or binding out such minor or minors in manner and form as is herein before mentioned and directed, that is to say, that his Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief, shall on application of the commissioners aforesaid, draw by warrant on the treasury any sum or sums of money not exceeding the sum of five hundred pounds for the purposes aforesaid, and whenever, and so often as a further or other sum or sums of money may be necessary for the purposes aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for his Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander in Chief, from time to time to issue other warrants for the purposes aforesaid, for any sum or sums of money, not exceeding at any one time, the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds on application of the commissioners aforesaid, they having first exhibited to his Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being, a true and just account with proper vouchers of the expenditure and application of the monies by them before so had and received for the purposes aforesaid.

V. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever, and so often as the trust or office of the commissioner or commissioners shall become vacant from death or otherwise, that then and in such case it shall and may be lawful for his Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in Chief, to nominate and appoint other proper person or persons commissioners aforesaid for the purposes aforesaid.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the sum of thirty pounds be allowed annually, and payed to the commissioners aforesaid out of the treasury by warrant from his Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being, for the payment of a clerk, and defraying the expences of stationary postage of letters.

VII. And be it further enacted, that every matter, clause and thing herein contained shall be contained in force until the first day of July, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one, and no longer, any law or statute to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.