

An ordinance further to extend the Powers mentioned in an Ordinance passed the 26th day of January 1786 intitled "An ordinance for the more easy and speedy recovery of small Debts."

Preamble

Whereas from the infant state of this Government and the dispersed situation of the Inhabitants in some of the Districts thereof it is found impracticable in such Districts to appoint Commissioners to try and determine the matters solely made Cognizable before such Commissioners in and by an ordinance passed the 26th day of January 1786 intitled "An Ordinance for the more easy and speedy recovery of small Debts" without making it extremely burthensome to such Commissioners as well as very expensive to suitors.

Be it therefore ordained and ordered by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor by and with the advice and Consent of His Majesty's Council, and it is hereby ordained and ordered by the authority of the same that in all such Districts of this Island or its Dependences in which no such Commissioners as aforesaid are or shall be appointed it shall and may be lawful for any one Justice of the Peace to take Cognizance of: And such Justice is hereby authorized and empowered to hear try and determine all such Suits, Debts and Demands as in and by the said Ordinance herein before mentioned are made Cognizable before such Commissioners as are in the said Ordinance mentioned and to proceed to Judgement and Execution thereon.

In places where the Governor shall not appoint Commissioners for the recovery of small Debts Power shall be given to one Justice of the Peace to hear and determine

And Be it further ordained and ordered by the authority aforesaid that the process and proceedings in all such Suits so to be had before the said Justice shall run in the same manner and form as in and by the said Ordinance is ordained and ordered to be had and pursued before

them to be the same as before Commissioners

before the said Commissioners (accepting always that the process and proceedings to be had before the said Justice shall run in the name of the said Justice) and all process issued by the said Justice in such suits may be directed to any of the Constables in the district in which such Justice shall reside; And they the said Constables and every of them are hereby authorized and empowered to execute the same in the same manner and form as the Provoost Marshall or his Deputy or Deputies are empowered and directed in and by the Ordinance aforesaid.

Constables to act by order of a Justice as by the Act. The Provoost Marshall was empowered & doubled

And Be it further Ordained and ordered by the authority aforesaid that in all such suits to be had before any Justice of the Peace the Parties thereto both Plaintiff and Defendant shall be intitled to all the Priviledges and advantages as are in and by the said Ordinance given and granted to Parties in suits to be had and prosecuted before the said Commissioners.

Priviledges and advantages to remain as by the Act is ordained

Approved Ordained and ordered according in Council this Tenth day of April 1700 in the Twenty eighth year of His Majesty's Reign

W^m Macarthur

Passed in Council the 10th of April 1700

- D. Matthews
Tho. Uncle
C. Graham
A. Quyer

A true Copy faithfully compared with the original. Houston