

*Acts of the General Assembly of Her Majesty's Province of New-Brunswick passed in the year 1858.* Fredericton, NB: John Simpson, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, 1858.

21 Victoria – Chapter 56

**An Act to authorize the Justices of the Peace for the County of Charlotte to assess the Parish of Saint Stephen, in the said County, for the erection of an Alms House therein, and to provide a site for the same, and for making rules and regulations for the management thereof. Passed 6th April 1858.**

Section.

1. Authority to contract for erecton of Alms House, and assess for expenses.
2. Money to be assessed, &c. as County rates.
3. Control of Alms House vested in Commissioners.
4. Materials for work; residence of beggars, and binding out of apprentices.

Section.

5. Authority to make regulations for Alms House, &c.
6. Commissioners to account.
7. Profits of work to be accounted for.
8. No election of Commissioners till Alms House Completed.

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

1. Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County of Charlotte, or the major part of them, at any General Sessions of the Peace, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to contract and agree with proper and competent parties for building and completing an Alms House in the said Parish of Saint Stephen, and agree for such sum or sums of money as to them may seem necessary to effect this object; and the said Justices or the major part of them at their General Sessions as aforesaid, are hereby authorized and empowered to make rate and assessment upon the inhabitants of the said Parish, for a sum not to exceed fifteen hundred pounds, for defraying the expense of the aforesaid building, and for providing, if it shall be deemed expedient by the said Justices, or the major part of them, a suitable site for the same, the title whereof, if acquired by purchase, shall be in the Commissioners appointed as hereinafter named, and their successors in office, in trust for the purposes contemplated by this Act.
2. That the said sum of fifteen hundred pounds or less, as may be, so to be assessed, shall be assessed, collected and paid agreeably to any Acts in force for the assessing, collecting and levying of County rates.
3. That the superintendence, management and control of the said Alms House, and all matters relating thereto, shall be vested in a Board of Commissioners numbering not less than three or more than five, who shall be appointed in lieu of and as Overseers of the Poor now are in the said Parish, and be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties; and for neglecting or refusing to qualify or perform the same, they shall be subject to the same fines and penalties as Parish

Officers are by virtue of any Acts made or hereafter to be made for the appointment of Town and Parish Officers in the several Counties of this Province.

4. It shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners to be appointed in pursuance of this Act, from time to time to provide such materials and things as they shall judge necessary for the setting to work and employing such poor persons of what age or sex soever they be, who may apply for relief and shall be capable to work; and shall have power and authority at their discretion to compel such idle or poor people begging or seeking relief, as do not betake themselves to some lawful employment, or also do or shall hereafter seek and receive alms of the said Parish, or who may stand in need of relief therefrom, to dwell, inhabit and to work in the said Alms House, and to do all such work as they shall think them able and fit for; and shall have the same powers to bind out poor children apprentices as are by the Laws of this Province given to the Overseers of the Poor in the several Towns and Parishes.

5. The said Commissioners to be appointed as aforesaid, shall have power to make such rules and regulations for the good government and management of the said Alms House as they shall find necessary, (the same to be appointed by the said Justices in General Sessions,) and to indict such correction and punishment, by solitary confinement or otherwise, from time to time as to them shall seem reasonable, on any person or persons within the said Alms House who shall be set to work and shall not conform to such rules, order and regulations to be made as aforesaid, or shall misbehave in the same.

6. The said Commissioners shall at the first General Sessions of the Peace to be holden for the said County annually, lay before the Justices in their said Sessions, an Account to be audited by the said Justices, of the expenses incurred by them for the support and maintenance of the poor of the said Alms House for the past year, together with an estimate of what sum or sums of money will be needful for the maintenance or employment of the poor of the said House for the current year; which sum or sums of money shall be assessed, levied and raised in such manner and form as by the Laws of this Province is or shall be appointed and directed, and when raised shall be paid to the said Commissioners for the use aforesaid and for no other.

7. The profits of any work or labour to be performed under the direction of the said Commissioners shall be duly accounted for by them, and shall be applied towards the support and maintenance of the said Alms House and those therein.

8. That no appointment or election of Commissioners under this Act shall take place or be had until the said Alms House shall have been first erected.