

Anno decimo quarto Regin Elizabeth.

An Act for the Punishment of Vagabonds. and for the Relief of the Poor and Impotent.

(14 Eliz. 1) C A P. V.

A Repeal of the Statute of 22 H. 8. c. 12. and 3 & 4 Ed. 6. c. 16. and 5 & 6 Ed. 6. c. 2. provided for the Relief of the Poor, and Punishment of Vagabonds. A Vagabond above the Age of fourteen Years shall be adjudged to be grievously whipped, and burned through the Gristle of the right Ear with a hot Iron of the Compass of an Inch, unless some credible Person will take him into Service for a Year. And if being of the Age of eighteen Years, he after do fall again into a roguish Life, he shall suffer Death as a Felon, unless some credible Person will take him into Service for two Years. And if he fall a third Time into a roguish Life, he shall be adjudged a Felon. Who shall be adjudged Vagabonds? The Penalty for the Relief of them. Who may make Passports and Licences, and to whom? Assessments shall be made of the Parishioners of every Parish for the Relief of the Poor of the same Parish. Every Bishop shall visit and reform Hospitals within his Diocese. No Person shall bring any Rogue out of *Ireland* or the *Isle of Man* into *England*. E X P.

XXXVII

A Provision for the Relief of the Prisoners in the common Gaol.

XXXVII. It shall and may be lawful for the Justices of Peace of every Shire within this Realm, at their General Quarter-Sessions of the Peace to be holden within the same Shires, or the most Part of the said Justices being then present, to rate and tax every Parish within the said Shires, at such reasonable Sums of Money, for and towards the Relief of the said Prisoners as they shall think convenient by their Discretions; so that the said Taxation and Rate doth not exceed above six Pence or eight Pence by the Week out of every Parish; and that the Churchwardens of every Parish within this Realm for the Time being shall every *Sunday* levy the same, and once every Quarter in the Year pay to the High Constables or Head Officers of every Town, Parish, Hundred, Riding or Wapentake within this Realm, all such Sums of Money as their Parish shall be rated and taxed, for and towards the Relief of the said Prisoners within their said several Parishes: And that the said High Constables and Head Officers, and every of them, shall pay all such Sums of Money so to them paid by the said Churchwardens, at every General Quarter-Sessions to be holden within the said several Shires, to such sufficient Persons dwelling nigh the said Gaols as shall be appointed by the said Justices in their said open Quarter-Sessions, to be there Ready to receive the said Money so collected as is aforesaid; and that the Collectors for the said Prisoners shall weekly

distribute and pay all such Sums of Money as they and every of them shall receive for the Relief of the said Prisoners as aforesaid; upon Pain as well the said Churchwardens of every Parish, Constables and Head Officers of every Hundred or Wapentake, as also the said Collectors appointed for the Collection and Contribution of the said Prisoners, so making Default as aforesaid, to forfeit five Pounds; the one Moiety thereof shall be to the Use of the Queen's Majesty, her Heirs and Successors, and the other Moiety to the Relief of the Prisoners; any Statute, Law, Custom, Use, or other Thing to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

XXXVIII

Justices of Peace shall not meddle in any City, Borough, &c. but the Mayors or Officers of the same.

XXXVIII. Provided always, That the Justices of Peace within any County of this Realm or *Wales*, shall not intromit or enter into any City, Borough, Place or Town Corporate where be any Justice or Justices of Peace for any such City, Borough, Place or Town Corporate for the Execution of any Branch Article or Sentence of this Act, for or concerning any Offence, Matter or Cause growing or arising within the Precincts, Liberties or Jurisdictions of such City, Borough, Place or Town Corporate; but that it may and shall be lawful to the Justice and Justices of Peace, Mayor, Bailiffs and other Head Officers of those Cities, Boroughs, Places and Towns Corporate where there be Justice or Justices, to proceed to the Execution of this Act, within the Precinct and Compass of their Liberties, in such Manner and Form as the Justices of Peace in any County may or ought to do within the same County by Virtue of this Act; any Matter or Thing in this Act expressed to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

XXXIX. And that every Justice and Justices of the Peace, within every such City Borough, Place and Town Corporate, for every Offence by them or any of them to be committed contrary to the Intent and Meaning of this Statute shall be punishable and chargeable, as other Justices of Peace at large in the Counties are by this Act above appointed to be.

Note : this act is listed in the Chronological Table of Statutes as the Vagabonds, etc. Act, 1572