

XIV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That, for the purpose of electing the members of such assemblies respectively, it shall and may be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs or successors, by an instrument under his or their sign manual, to authorize the governor or lieutenant governor of each of the said provinces respectively, or the person administering the government therein, within the time hereinafter mentioned, to issue a proclamation dividing such province into districts, or counties, or circles, and towns or townships, and appointing the limits thereof, and declaring and appointing the number of representatives to be chosen by each of such districts, or counties, or circles, and towns or townships respectively; and that it shall also be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs or successors, to authorize such governor or lieutenant governor, or person administering the government, from time to time to nominate and appoint proper persons to execute the office of returning officer in each of the said districts, or counties, or circles, and towns or townships respectively; and that such division of the said provinces into districts, or counties, or circles, and towns or townships, and such declaration and appointment of the number of representatives to be chosen by each of the said districts, or counties, or circles, and towns or townships respectively, and also such nomination and appointment of returning officers in the same, shall be valid and effectual to all the purposes of this act, unless it shall at any time be otherwise provided by any act of the legislative council and assembly of the province, assented to by his Majesty, his heirs or successors.

and for the purpose of electing members, to issue a proclamation dividing the province into districts, &c.

XV. Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the provision hereinbefore contained, for empowering the governor, lieutenant governor, or person administering the government of the said provinces respectively, under such authority as aforesaid from his Majesty, his heirs or successors, from time to time, to nominate and appoint proper persons to execute the office of returning officer, in the said districts, counties, circles, and towns or townships, shall remain and continue in force in each of the said provinces respectively, for the term of two years, from and after the commencement of this act, within such province, and no longer; but subject, nevertheless, to be sooner repealed or varied by any act of the legislative council and assembly of the province, assented to by his Majesty, his heirs or successors.

Power of the governor to appoint returning officers, to continue two years from the commencement of this act.

XVI. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no person shall be obliged to execute the said office of returning officer for any longer time than one year or oftener than once, unless it shall at any time be otherwise provided by any act of the legislative council and assembly of the province, assented to by his Majesty, his heirs or successors.

No person obliged to serve as returning officer more than once, unless otherwise provided by an act of the province.

XVII. Provided also, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the whole number of members to be chosen in the province of Upper Canada shall not be less than sixteen, and that the whole number of members to be chosen in the province of Lower Canada shall not be less than fifty.

Number of members in each province.

XVIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That writs for the election of members to serve in the said assemblies respectively, shall be issued by the governor, lieutenant governor, or person administering his Majesty's government within the said provinces respectively, within fourteen days after the sealing of such instrument as aforesaid, for summoning and calling together such assembly, and that such writs shall be directed to the respective returning officers of the said districts, or counties, or circles, and towns or townships, and that such writs shall be made returnable within fifty days at farthest from the day on which they shall bear date, unless it shall at any time be otherwise provided by any act of the legislative council and assembly of the province, assented to by his Majesty, his heirs or successors; and that writs shall in like manner and form be issued for the election of members in the case of any vacancy which shall happen by the death of the person chosen, or by his being summoned to the legislative council of either province, and that such writs shall be made returnable within fifty days at farthest from the day on which they shall bear date, unless it shall at any time be otherwise provided by any act of the legislative council and assembly of the province, assented to by his Majesty, his heirs or successors; and that in the case of any such vacancy which shall happen by the death of the person chosen, or by reason of his being so summoned as aforesaid, the writ for the election of a new member shall be issued within six days after the same shall be made known to the proper office for issuing such writs of election.

Regulations for issuing writs for the election of members to serve in the assemblies.

XIX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every the returning officers so appointed as aforesaid, to whom any such writs as aforesaid shall be directed, shall and they are hereby authorized and required duly to execute such writs.

Returning officers to execute writs.

XX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the members for the several districts, or counties, or circles, of the said provinces respectively, shall be chosen by the majority of votes of such persons as shall severally be possessed, for their own use and benefit, of lands or tenements within such district, or county, or circle, as the case shall be, such lands being by them held in freehold, or in fief, or in roture, or by certificate

By whom the members are to be chosen.