

## An Act to facilitate arrangements between Debtors and Creditors.

**W**HEREAS it is expedient that amicable modes of arrangement between debtors and their creditors should be facilitated, and that better means should be provided for carrying the same into effect : Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows : Preamble.

- 5 I. From and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for any number of creditors, not less than three, whose claims in the aggregate amount to £100, of any debtor who has failed to meet his engagements, to present a petition to the Judge of the County Court of the County or Union of Counties in which such debtor is residing at the time of presenting the petition, setting forth the nature of their claims, the time when they were due, that the debtor has failed to meet them, and their belief of his inability to meet all his engagements ; and upon the verification of such petition by the oath of the creditors so presenting the same, the Judge of such County Court shall summon such debtor, upon a day to be named in such summons to appear before him, and to produce a statement on oath, setting forth a full account of his debts, and the names, residences and occupations of his creditors, and also a full account of his estate and effects, whether in possession, reversion or expectancy, and of all debts and rights due to or claimed by him, and of all property of what kind soever held in trust for him ; and upon the appearance of such debtor such Judge shall require the production of such statement, and may examine on oath such debtor or any of the creditors petitioning, or any witness produced by either of such creditors or the debtor, and may order such meeting of creditors to be called as hereinafter mentioned, or refuse to proceed upon such petition, as to such Judge shall seem most just. Presentation of petition by creditors of a debtor failing to meet his engagements, to County Judge, and proceedings thereon.
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- Statement of debts and effects.  
Judge may order meeting of creditors, or refuse to proceed.

- II. Any debtor who is unable to meet his engagements, with the concurrence of one-third in number and value of his creditors, (certified by their signing his petition,) may present a petition to the Judge of the County Court of the County or Union of Counties in which such debtor is residing at the time of presenting his petition, setting forth a full account such as is in the first section of this Act mentioned ; and also setting forth that he is unable to meet his engagements with his creditors, and the true cause of such inability, and also setting forth such proposal as he is able to make for the future payment or compromise of such debts or engagements, and that one-third in number and value of his creditors have assented to such proposal, and praying that such proposal (or such modification thereof as by the majority of his creditors shall be determined,) may be carried into effect under the superintendence and control of the said Court, and that he, the said petitioning debtor, may, in the mean time, be protected from arrest, by order from the said Court. Debtor unable to meet his engagements may present a Petition, with the consent of a portion of his creditors, &c., and with a statement as above.
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- The prayer thereof.