

XII. And be it further ordained and enacted, that every person who shall be elected to any of the offices aforesaid, shall, within five days after his election, accept such office, and take the Oath aforesaid, before the Justice of the Peace, or other person, who shall have presided at such meeting as aforesaid, or before the Clerk of the Parish or Township, or reputed Parish or Township, in which such election shall have been had, each and every of whom are hereby authorized to administer the same, and in default thereof shall forfeit and pay the sum of two pounds, current money of this Province, to be levied by distress and sale of his goods and chattels, in virtue of a warrant under the hand and seal of any Justice of the Peace for the District, within which such election shall have taken place; which warrant such Justice is hereby empowered to grant, upon complaint or information before him, and after conviction of the person so making default, by confession, or on the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, other than the informer; and the said sum so forfeited shall be paid, one half to the informer, and the other half into the hands of the Treasurer of the District, in which the said election shall have been had, towards the public stock of the said District.

XIII. And be it further ordained and enacted, that it shall be lawful for any two or more of the Justices of the Peace, for the District in which any person so elected to office shall refuse or neglect to accept the same, and take the Oath of Office as aforesaid, at a Special Session to be held for that purpose, to appoint a fit and proper person or persons, to serve in the place of the person or persons, who shall have so refused or neglected; and if the person or persons so appointed by such Justices shall not, within five days after notice of his or their appointment as aforesaid, accept the office or offices to which he or they shall have been so appointed, and take the Oath aforesaid, each and every of such persons severally shall forfeit the sum of two pounds current money of this Province, to be levied, paid, and applied, in the manner herein before provided, in the case of the person elected to one of the offices aforesaid refusing or neglecting as aforesaid. And in all cases where the person or persons, so appointed by such Justices, shall refuse or neglect to accept the office or offices, to which he or they shall have been so appointed, and take the oath aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the said Justices, to appoint another person or persons, in his or their place, and repeat such appointments, until such office or offices shall be accepted, and the oath aforesaid taken; and to enforce their authority in this respect, by the imposition of the Penalty aforesaid, to be levied as aforesaid, in case of each successive refusal or neglect to accept such office or offices, and take the oath aforesaid.

XIV. And be it further ordained and enacted, that if any Parish or Township, or reputed Parish or Township, shall neglect or omit, at the meeting to be held for that purpose as aforesaid, to choose the said officers, to be chosen as aforesaid, or any of them, it shall be lawful for any two or more of the Justices of the Peace for the District, in which such neglect or omission shall have occurred, at a Special Session to be held for that purpose, to appoint the said officers, or such of them as the said Parish or Township, or reputed Parish or Township, shall have neglected or omitted to elect: and such officers so appointed shall hold their offices, until others are chosen or appointed in their places, and shall have the same powers, and be subject to the same duties and penalties, as if they had been duly chosen by the Inhabitant Householders. And if any of the persons, so appointed by the said Justices as last aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to accept the offices, to which they shall have been appointed as last aforesaid, they shall severally incur the same penalties, as are herein before provided, in the case of persons elected as aforesaid refusing or neglecting to accept the offices to which they have been elected, to be levied, paid, and applied in manner aforesaid; and it shall be lawful for the said Justices to make successive appointments, in like manner as herein before provided, until such offices shall have been accepted, and the oath aforesaid taken.

XV. And be it further ordained and enacted, that if any of the said officers, to be elected or appointed as aforesaid, shall, after having accepted the said offices, or any of them, die, or remove from the Parish or Township, or reputed Parish or Township, for which they have been elected or appointed, or become incapable of discharging the duties of the said offices, it shall be lawful for any two or more of the Justices of the Peace for the District, in which such vacancy, removal, or incapacity shall occur, at a Special Session to be held for that purpose, to supply the place or places of such officers, respectively, in the same manner as is herein before provided, in the case of a neglect or omission to elect such officers, and under and subject to the same provisions.

XVI. Provided always, and be it further ordained and enacted, that it shall not be lawful to hold any meeting, for the election of any of the officers aforesaid, in any Parish or Township, or reputed Parish or Township, in which the population shall not exceed the number of three hundred souls; and that the inhabitants of every such local division, in which the population shall not exceed that number, shall be joined to, and be reputed and taken to be inhabitants of the Parish or Township adjacent thereto, which shall contain the