



Metropolis Management Act 1855

1855 CHAPTER 120

Provisions concerning Constitution, Procedure, and Officers of Metropolitan and District Boards and Vestries

LIV Disqualifications of Members of Metropolitan Board, of District Boards, of Vestries of Parishes in Schedule (A.) and (B.), and of Auditors.

In case any Member of the Metropolitan Board of Works, or of any District Board of Works, or of any Vestry for any Parish mentioned in Schedule (A.) or (B.) to this Act, or any Auditor of the Accounts of any such Board or Vestry, be declared bankrupt, or apply to take the Benefit of or become subject to any Act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, or compound with his Creditors, or accept or hold any Office under the Board or Vestry of which he is a Member, or of whose Accounts he is Auditor, other than, in the Case of any such Auditor, his Office of Auditor, or in, any Manner be concerned or interested in any Contract or Work made with or. executed for such Board or Vestry, in every such Case such Person shall cease to be such, Member or Auditor as aforesaid: Provided always, that no Person being a Shareholder of any Joint Stock Company shall be disabled from continuing or acting as a Member of any such Board, or Vestry by reason of any Contract between such Company and such Board or Vestry, or of any Work executed by such Company; but no such Member shall vote upon any Question in which such Company is interested; and any Person who acts as a Member of any such Board or Vestry, or as Auditor of the Accounts thereof, after ceasing to be such Member or Auditor as aforesaid, or who, being a Shareholder in any Joint Stock Company, votes upon any Question in which such Company is interested, and any Person who acts as a Member of any such Vestry as aforesaid without being qualified by Rating and Occupation as required by this Act, shall for every such Offence be liable to a Penalty of Fifty Pounds, which may be recovered by any Person who may sue for the same in any of the Superior Courts of Law, with full Costs of Suit: Provided also, that all Acts and Proceedings of any Person ceasing to be such Member or Auditor, or disabled from acting as aforesaid, shall, if done previously to the Recovery of such Penalty, be valid and effectual to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

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LV Members of Metropolitan and District Boards, and of Vestries of Parishes in Schedule (A.) or (B.), may resign.

Any Member of the Metropolitan Board of Works, or of any Vestry elected for any Parish mentioned in Schedule (A.) or (B.) to this Act, or of the Board of Works for any District, may at any Time resign his Office, such Resignation of any Member of the Metropolitan Board of Works to be notified in Writing signed by such Member to the Chairman of such Board, and such Resignation of any Vestryman or Member of any such District Board to be notified in Writing signed by such Vestryman or Member to the Churchwardens of the Parish for which he was elected.

LVI Retiring Members of Boards and Vestries may be re-elected.

Any Member of the Metropolitan Board of Works, or of any District Board of Works, or of any such Vestry, going out of Office, shall, if qualified, be capable of immediate Re-election.

LVII No Resolution of Metropolitan or any District Board, or of any Vestry, to be revoked at a subsequent Meeting, unless under certain Circumstances.

No Resolution or other Act of the Metropolitan Board of Works, or of the Board of Works for any District, or of any such Vestry, shall be revoked or altered at any subsequent Meeting, unless such subsequent Meeting be specially convened for the Purpose, nor unless such Revocation or Alteration be determined upon by a Majority consisting of Two Thirds of the Members of the Board, or of the Vestrymen present at such subsequent Meeting, if the Number of Members or Vestrymen present at such subsequent Meeting be not greater by One Fifth than the Number present when such Resolution was made or such Act was done, but if the Number of Members or Vestrymen present at such subsequent Meeting be greater by One Fifth than the Number present at such former Meeting, then such Revocation or Alteration may be determined upon by a mere Majority.

LVIII Committees may be appointed.

It shall be lawful for the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the Board of Works for any District, and any such Vestry respectively, to appoint a Committee or Committees for any Purposes which, in the Discretion of the Board or Vestry, would be better regulated and managed by means of such Committee, and at any Meeting to continue, alter, or discontinue such Committee: Provided always, that the Acts of every such Committee shall be submitted to the general Body of the Board or Vestry appointing such Committee for their Approval.

LIX Powers of Committees.

Every Committee so appointed may meet from Time to Time, and may adjourn from Place to Place, as they may think proper, for carrying into effect the Purposes of their Appointment; but no Business shall be transacted at any Meeting of the Committee unless Three Members of the Committee are present.

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LX Minutes of Proceedings of Metropolitan and District Boards and of Vestries to be entered.

Entries of all Proceedings of the Metropolitan Board of Works and every such District Board, and of any such Vestry, with the Names of the Members who attend each Meeting, shall be made in Books to be provided and kept for that Purpose, under the Direction of the Board or Vestry, and shall be signed by the Members present, or any Two of them ; and all Entries purporting to be so signed shall be received as Evidence, without Proof of any Meeting of the Board or Vestry having been duly convened or held, or of the Presence at any such Meeting of the Persons named in any such Entry as being present thereat, or of such Persons being Members of the Board or Vestry, or of the Signature of any Person by whom any such Entry purports to be signed, all which Matters shall be presumed until the contrary be proved; and every such Board and Vestry shall provide and keep Books in which shall be entered true and regular Accounts of all Sums of Money received and paid by them or under their Authority, and of all Liabilities incurred by them, and of the several Purposes for which such Sums of Money are received and paid and such Liabilities incurred, and Copies of all Contracts entered into by any such Board or Vestry.

LXI All Books to be open to Inspection.

All such Books shall at all reasonable Times be open to the Examination of every Member of the Board and Vestry respectively to which such Books belong, and of every Owner of Property, Churchwarden, Overseer, and Ratepayer within the Metropolis, as regards Books of the said Metropolitan Board, and of every Owner of Property, Churchwarden, Overseer, and Ratepayer within any District or Parish, as regards Books belonging to the District Board or Vestry thereof (as the Case may be), and of every Creditor on the Rates raised under this Act by any, such Board or Vestry respectively, without Fee or Reward, and they respectively may take Copies of or Extracts from such Books or any Part thereof, without paying for the same ; and in case the Members of the Board or Vestry, or any of them, or any of the Officers or Servants of the Board or Vestry having the Custody of the said Books, being thereunto reasonably requested, refuse to permit or do not permit any such Owner of Property, Churchwarden, Overseer, Ratepayer, or Creditor to examine the same, or take any Copies or Extracts, every such Member, Officer, or Servant so offending shall for every such Offence, upon a summary Conviction thereof before Two Justices, forfeit any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds.

LXII Power to Metropolitan Board, District Boards, and Vestries to appoint Officers.

The Metropolitan Board of Works, and (subject to the Provisions herein contained) the Board of Works for every District under this Act, and the Vestry of every Parish mentioned in Schedule (A.) to this Act, shall respectively appoint or employ, or continue for the Purposes of this Act, and may remove at pleasure, such Clerks, Treasurers, and Surveyors, and such other Officers and Servants as may be necessary, and may allow to such Clerks, Treasurers, Surveyors, Officers, and Servants respectively such Salaries and Wages as the Board or Vestry may think fit.

LXIII Clerk and Treasurer not to be the same Person.

No Person holding the Office of Treasurer under the Metropolitan Board, or any District Board or any such Vestry, nor his Partner, nor any Person in the Service or Employment of them or either of them, shall hold, be eligible to, or in any Manner assist or

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officiate in the Office of Clerk ; and neither the Person holding the Office of Clerk, nor his Partner, nor any Person in the Service or Employ of them or either of them, shall hold, be eligible to, or in any Manner assist or officiate in the Office of Treasurer; and every Person offending in any of the Cases specified in this Provision shall forfeit and pay the Sum of One hundred Pounds, which may be recovered by any Person, with full Costs of Suit, by Action in any of the Superior Courts of Law.

LXIV Penalty on Officers, &c. being interested in Contracts, or exacting Fees.

No Officer or Servant of the Metropolitan Board, or of any District Board or any such Vestry, shall be in anywise concerned or interested in any Contract or, Work made with or executed for such, Board or Vestry; and if any such Officer or Servant be so concerned or interested, or, under colour of his Office or Employment, exact, take, or accept any Fee or Reward whatsoever, other than his proper Salary, Wages, and Allowances, he shall be incapable of afterwards holding or continuing in any Office or Employment under such Board or Vestry, and shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Fifty Pounds, which may be recovered by any Person, with full Costs of Suit, by Action in any of the Superior Courts of Law ; provided that no Person, being a Shareholder of any Joint Stock Company, shall be prevented from being employed as an Officer or Servant by reason of any Contract between such Company and such Board or Vestry, or of any Work executed by such Company.

LXV Officers, &c. intrusted with Money to give Security for duly accounting for the same. If Officer fail to render Account, &c. Justices may commit Offender to Prison. Power to levy by Distress.

Before any Officer or Servant as aforesaid enters upon any Office or Employment under this Act, by reason whereof he will or may be intrusted with the Custody or Control of Money, the Board or Vestry shall require and take from him such Security for the faithful Execution of such Office or Employment, and for duly accounting for all Monies which may be intrusted to him by reason thereof, as they may think sufficient; and every such Officer and Servant, as well during his Continuance in Office or Employment as upon his Resignation, Dismissal, or ceasing to hold his Office or Employment, shall respectively, when and in such Manner as shall be required by the Board or Vestry, make out and deliver a true and perfect Account, in Writing signed by him, of all Monies received by him for the Purposes of this Act, and stating how, and to whom, and for what Purpose such Monies have been disposed of, and shall together with such Account deliver the Vouchers or Receipts for all Payments made by him, and pay over to the Treasurer or such Person as the Board or Vestry may appoint all Monies owing by him ; and if any such Officer or Servant fail to render such Account, or to produce and deliver up such of the said Vouchers and Receipts as may be in his Possession or Power, or to pay over any such Monies as aforesaid, or if, for the Space of Five Days after being thereunto required, he fail to deliver up to the Board or Vestry, or to such Person as they may appoint, all Books, Papers, Writings, Property, Effects, Matters, and Things in his Possession or Power belonging to the Board or Vestry, then and in every such Case a Justice shall, on Complaint being made to him in that Behalf, summon the Party charged to appear and answer the Complaint before Two Justices, at a Time and Place to be specified in the Summons ; and upon the Appearance of the Party charged, or upon Proof that the Summons was personally served upon him or left at his last known Place of Abode in *England*, and if it appear to the last-mentioned Justices that he has failed to render any such Account, or to produce and deliver up any such Vouchers or Receipts, or

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any such Books, Papers, Writings, Property, Effects, Matters, or Things as aforesaid, and that he still fails or refuses so to do, it shall be lawful for them, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to commit the Offender to Gaol, there to remain, without Bail, until he shall have rendered such Account, and produced and delivered up all such Vouchers, Receipts, Books, Papers, Writings, Property, Effects, Matters, and Things in respect of which the Charge was made ; and if it appears that the Party charged has failed to pay over any such Monies as aforesaid, and that he still fails or refuses so to do, it shall be lawful for the last-mentioned Justices, by a like Warrant, to cause the same to be levied by Distress and Sale of his Goods and Chattels, and in default of any sufficient Distress to commit him to Gaol, there to remain, without Bail, for a Period not exceeding Three Months, unless such Monies be sooner paid: Provided always, that if the Complainant, by Deposition on Oath, show to the Satisfaction of any Justice that there is probable Cause for believing that the Party charged intends to abscond, it shall be lawful for such Justice, without previous Summons, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal to cause him to be forthwith apprehended; and in such Case the said Party shall, within Twenty-four Hours after Apprehension, be brought before the same or some other Justice, who may order that he be discharged from Custody, if such Justice think that there is no sufficient Ground for Detention, or that he be further detained until he be brought before Two Justices at a Time and Place to be named in the Order, unless Bail to the Satisfaction of the Justice be given for the Appearance of the Party before such Two Justices : Provided also, that no such Proceeding shall be construed to relieve or discharge any Surety of the Offender from any Liability whatsoever.

LXVI Metropolitan and District Boards and Vestries to provide proper Offices, and to cause daily Attendance to be given.

The Metropolitan Board of Works and every such District Board and Vestry respectively shall provide and maintain such Offices within their respective District or Parish as may be necessary for the Purposes of this Act, and shall take care that their Clerk, or some Person duly authorized by them in that Behalf, attends at their Office daily (*Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, and Days appointed for any General Fast or Thanksgiving, alone excepted*), for the Purpose of receiving Notices an" transacting the ordinary Business of the Board or Vestry under this Act.