

Officers, Mariners, Soldiers, and Marines, who have been employed in the King's Service since July 16, 1734, and have not since deserted, and also the Wives and Children of such, may set up and exercise Trades in any Part of this Kingdom, and shall not be liable to be removed from thence to their last legal Place of Settlement, until they become actually chargeable to the Parish;

and if sued, upon pleading the General Issue, they shall be acquitted, and be paid Double Costs of Suit.

When any Two Justices for the County or Place where such Officers, Mariners, Soldiers, or Marines shall so set up, shall summon them to give Evidence as to the Place of their last legal

Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all such Officers, Mariners, Soldiers, and Marines, as have been at any Time employed in the Service of His Majesty since the Sixteenth Day of July One thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, and have not since deserted the said Service, and also the Wives and Children of such Officers, Mariners, Soldiers, and Marines, may set up and exercise such Trades as they are apt and able for in any Town or Place within this Kingdom, without any Let, Suit, or Molestation of any Person or Persons whatsoever, for or by Reason of the using of such Trade, nor shall such Officers, Mariners, Soldiers, or Marines, or their Wives or Children, during the Time they shall exercise such Trades, be removeable from such respective Place or Places, to his, her, or their last legal Place of Settlement by virtue of any Law now in being relative to the Settlement of the Poor, until such Person or Persons shall become actually chargeable to such Parish or Place; and if any such Officer or Officers, Mariner or Mariners, Soldier or Soldiers, Marine or Marines, or the Wife or any Child of any such Officer, Mariner, Soldier, or Marine shall be sued, impleaded, or indicted in any Court whatsoever within this Kingdom for using or exercising any such Trades as aforesaid, then the said Officer or Officers, Mariner or Mariners, Soldier or Soldiers, Marine or Marines, or the Wife or any Child of any such Officer, Mariner, Soldier, or Marine, making it appear to the same Court where they are so sued, impleaded, or indicted, that they have served His Majesty as aforesaid, or that he, she, or they is or are the Wife or Wives, Child or Children of such Officer or Officers, Mariner or Mariners, Soldier or Soldiers, Marine or Marines who shall have so served His Majesty, shall, upon the General Issue pleaded, be found not guilty in any Plaint, Bill, Information, or Indictment exhibited against them; and such Person or Persons who, notwithstanding this Act, shall prosecute the said Suit by Bill, Plaint, Information, or Indictment, and shall have a Verdict pass against him or them, or become nonsuit therein, or discontinue his or their said Suit, such Person or Persons shall pay unto such Officer or Officers, Mariner or Mariners, Soldier or Soldiers, Marine or Marines, or the Wife or Child of such Officer, Mariner, Soldier, or Marine respectively, Double Costs of Suit, to be recovered as any other Costs at Common Law may be recovered; and all Judges and Jurors before whom any such Suit, Information, or Indictment shall be brought, and all other Persons whatsoever, are to take Notice of this present Act, and shall conform themselves thereto; any Statute, Law, Ordinance, Custom, or Provision to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any Two or more Justices of the Peace for the County, Town, or Place where any such Officer, Mariner, Soldier, or Marine shall set up and exercise any Trade as aforesaid, to cause such Mariner, Soldier, or Marine, to be summoned before them in the Town or Place where such Officer, Mariner, Soldier, or Marine shall set up and exercise such Trade as aforesaid, in order to make Oath of the Place of his last legal Settlement (which Oath the said Justices are hereby empowered to administer), and such Officer, Mariner, Soldier, or Marine are hereby directed to obey such Summons, and to make Oath accordingly; and such Justices are hereby