

the said general rule referring to town rates, and the selectmen or assessors thereof are to attend and observe the rules and directions given by former laws in making and apportioning of the same, the aforesaid act or anything therein contained notwithstanding. [*Passed June 30; published July 4.*]

general rule
about town
rates.

CHAPTER 9.

AN ACT PROVIDING IN CASE OF SICKNESS.

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant-Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

[SECT. 1.] That, for the better preventing the spreading of infection, when it shall happen any person or persons coming from abroad or belonging to any town or place within this province to be visited, or that late before have been visited with the plague, small pox, pestilential or malignant fever, or other contagious sickness, the infection whereof may probably be communicated to others, the selectmen of such town be and hereby are impowred to take care and make effectual provision, in the best manner they can, for the preservation of the inhabitants, by removing and placing such sick or infected person or persons to and in a separate house or houses, and by providing of nurses, tendance and other assistance and necessities for them, at the charge of the partys themselves, their parents or masters (if able), or otherwise at the charge of the town or place whereto they belong.

Selectmen to
provide for the
sick.

[SECT. 2.] And in case it happen any person or persons to be visited with sickness in any other town or place than that whereto they belong, and thereby occasion a charge to such town, the selectmen shall lay the accompt thereof before the justices in court of general sessions of the peace, within the county where the town lyes whereto such person or persons belong; and the justices, having adjusted the accompt of such charge, and allowed so much thereof as they judge reasonable, shall order payment thereof to be made by the treasurer of such town, when the persons themselves, their parents or masters, are unable to pay the same. And when it shall happen such indigent persons, not to be inhabitants, or belonging to any town or place within this province, and the proper charge thereof in case they need reliefe, then the charge of their sickness shall be defreyed out of the publick treasury of the province, by warrant from the governour, with the advice and consent of the council.

Towns to pay
the charge of
their own sick.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

[SECT. 3.] That, if need so require, any two justices of the peace may make out a warrant, directed to the sheriffe of the county or his deputy, or constables of the town or place where any such sick person or persons shall be, requiring them, or any of them, in his majesty's name, with the advice and direction of the selectmen of the same, to impress and take up convenient housing, lodging, nurses, tendance and other necessities, for the accommodation, safety and relief of the sick.

Justices to
make out war-
rant for im-
pressing lodg-
ings, &c.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

[SECT. 4.] That if any person or persons, seamen or passengers, belonging to or transported in any ship or vessel arriving to any port or harbour within this province, happen to be visited with the plague, small pox, pestilential or malignant fever, during the voyage, or to come from any place where such sickness prevails and is common, any justice or justices of the peace within the county, to whom the notice or information thereof shall be given, shall forthwith take care to prevent and restrain all persons belonging to or transported in such ship or other

Justices em-
powered to pre-
vent persons
coming on
shore from any
vessel visited
with sickness.

Intelligence to be transmitted to the governor.

vessel from coming on shore, and if any be before on shore to send them on board again, as also to restrain persons from going on board such ship or vessel; and to that end may make out a warrant, directed to the sheriffe of the county or his deputy, or constables of the same town, who are accordingly impowred and required to execute the same. And such justice or justices are forthwith to transmit the intelligence thereof to the governour or commander-in-chief for the time being, who is hereby impowred, with the advice and consent of the council, to take such further order therein as they shall think fit for preventing the spreading of the infection. [*Passed June 25; published June 28.*]

CHAPTER 10.

AN ACT IN ADDITION TO AN ACT FOR THE SETTLEMENT AND SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL-MASTERS.

1692-3, chap. 6.

WHEREAS it is by law appointed, "*That every town within this province, having the number of fifty householders or upwards, shall be constantly provided of a school-master, to teach children and youth to read and write; and where any town or towns have the number of one hundred families or householders, there shall also be a grammar-school set up in every such town, and some discreet person, of good conversation, well instructed in the tongues, procured to keep such school, every such school-master to be suitably encouraged and paid by the inhabitants,*"—the observance of which wholesome and necessary law is shamefully neglected by divers towns, and the penalty therefore not required, tending greatly to the nourishing of ignorance and irreligion, whereof grievous complaint is made; for redress of the same,—

Be it enacted and declared by the Lieutenant-Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

Penalty for non-observance of the law.

[SECT. 1.] That the penalty or forfeiture for non-observance of the said law shall henceforth be twenty pounds per annum, and so proportionably for a lesser time that any town shall be without such settled school-master respectively, to be recovered, paid and employed in manner and to the use as by the law is directed; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Grammar-school masters to be approved.

[SECT. 2.] Every grammar-school master to be approved by the minister of the town, and the ministers of the two next adjacent towns, or any two of them, by certificate under their hands.

And be it further enacted,

No minister to be a school-master.

[SECT. 3.] That no minister of any town shall be deemed, held or accepted to be the school-master of such town within the intent of the law.

Justices to see to the observance of the law.

[SECT. 4.] And the justices of peace in each respective county are hereby directed to take effectual care that the laws respecting schools and school-masters be duely observed and put in execution; and all grand jurors, within their respective countys, shall diligently inquire and make presentment of all breaches and neglect of the said laws, that so due prosecution may be made against the offenders. [*Passed and published June 28.*]

Grand jurors to inquire and present breaches thereof.