

**Anno tertio et quarto Victoriae Reginae.**

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AN  
ACT OF PARLIAMENT  
TO  
EXTEND THE PRACTICE  
OF  
VACCINATION.



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Anno Tertio & Quarto

Victoriae Reginae.

AN

A C T

TO

EXTEND THE PRACTICE OF VACCINATION.

[23d July 1840.]

C A P. XXIX.

**W**HEREAS it is expedient to extend the Practice of Vaccination: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most 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 from and after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for the Guardians of every Parish or Union, and for the Overseers of every Parish in which Relief to the Poor shall not be administered by Guardians, in *England* and *Wales*, and they are hereby directed, to contract with the Medical Officers of their several Unions or Parishes respectively, or with any legally qualified Medical Practitioner or Practitioners, for the Vaccination of all Persons resident in such Unions or Parishes respectively: Provided always, that it shall be a Condition of every

Poor Law Guardians to contract with their Medical Officers, or other Medical Practitioners, for Vaccination.

every such Contract that the Amount of the Remuneration to be received under the same shall depend on the Number of Persons who, not having been previously successfully vaccinated, shall be successfully vaccinated by such Medical Officers or Practitioners respectively so contracting.

Guardians  
to conform  
to the Re-  
gulations of  
the Poor  
Law Com-  
missioners.

2. And be it further enacted, That in making such Arrangements as may be required for the Execution of this Act, such Guardians and Overseers, and all other Officers engaged in the Administration of the Laws for the Relief of the Poor, shall conform to the Regulations which may from Time to Time be issued by the Poor Law Commissioners in that Behalf, which Regulations the said Commissioners are hereby authorized and required to make and issue.

Medical  
Officers to  
report the  
Number of  
Persons  
vaccinated,  
&c.

3. And be it further enacted, That such Medical Officers or Practitioners shall make a Report to such Guardians or Overseers from Time to Time of the Number of Persons successfully vaccinated by them respectively, and shall make such further Report, with respect to the Persons so vaccinated, as such Guardians and Overseers, under the Direction of the Poor Law Commissioners, shall require.

Copies of  
Contracts to  
be sent to  
Commis-  
sioners.

4. And be it enacted, That such Guardians or Overseers shall forthwith, after the Conclusion of any such Contract as before mentioned, transmit a Copy thereof to the Poor Law Commissioners.

5. And

5. And be it enacted, That if such Commis-  
 sioners shall not annul such Contract within  
 Fourteen Days from the Receipt thereof such  
 Contract shall thenceforth not be liable to be  
 annulled by such Commissioners.

Annulling of  
Contracts.

6. And be it further enacted, That as soon as  
 may be after the passing of this Act the Guar-  
 dians of every Poor Law Union in *Ireland* shall  
 (subject to the Approbation of the Poor Law  
 Commissioners) divide such Union into Districts  
 of convenient Extent, and may alter the same  
 from Time to Time, subject to the like Appro-  
 bation, and shall (subject to such Approbation as  
 aforesaid) contract with competent Medical Prac-  
 titioners for the Period of One Year, and so  
 from Year to Year as such Contract may expire,  
 for the Vaccination of all Persons who may  
 come to such Medical Practitioners for that  
 Purpose.

Guardians of  
Poor Law  
Unions in  
*Ireland* to  
divide their  
Unions into  
Districts, &c.

7. And be it further enacted, That all the Pro-  
 visions herein-before made with respect to *Eng-  
 land* and *Wales* for the making of Reports of  
 such Medical Officers or Medical Practitioners  
 shall apply to all such Contracts as may be made  
 under this Act by the Guardians of any Poor  
 Law Union in *Ireland*; and such Guardians, and  
 all other Officers engaged in the Administration  
 of Relief to the destitute Poor, shall conform to  
 the Regulations and Instructions of the Poor  
 Law Commissioners, in like Manner as is herein-  
 before directed with respect to Guardians, Over-  
 seers, and other Officers, in *England* and *Wales*.

Previous  
Provisions  
with respect  
to Unions in  
*England*  
and *Wales*  
to apply to  
*Ireland*.

8. And

Persons  
inoculating  
or otherwise  
producing  
Small Pox  
to be subject  
to One  
Month's Im-  
prisonment.

8. And be it further enacted, That any Person who shall from and after the passing of this Act produce or attempt to produce in any Person, by Inoculation with variolous Matter or by wilful Exposure to variolous Matter, or to any Matter, Article, or Thing impregnated with variolous Matter, or wilfully by any other Means whatsoever produce the Disease of Small Pox in any Person in *England, Wales, or Ireland*, shall be liable to be proceeded against and convicted summarily before any Two or more Justices of the Peace in Petty Sessions assembled, and for every such Offence shall, upon Conviction, be imprisoned in the Common Gaol or House of Correction for any Term not exceeding One Month.

Interpreta-  
tion of  
Words.

9. And be it further enacted, That every Word in such Part of this Act as refers to *England and Wales* shall be interpreted in like Manner as such Word is directed to be interpreted in an Act passed in the Fourth and Fifth Year of His late Majesty King *William* the Fourth, intituled *An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales*; and that every Word used in such Part of this Act as relates to *Ireland* shall be interpreted in like Manner as such Word is directed to be interpreted in an Act passed in the First and Second Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled *An Act for the more effectual Relief of the destitute Poor in Ireland*.

4 & 5 W. 4.  
c. 76.

1 & 2 Vict.  
c. 56.

