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An Act for the Establishment of Vestries for each Parish in this State —

Whereas it is represented to this general Assembly that the Act for the establishment of Select Vestries and the Supplements thereto are inadequate to the exigences of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this State for which the said acts were intended to provide —

II Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, that Vestries shall be chosen for each parish within this state in the following manner, Every free white male citizen of this state above twenty one years of age, resident of the parish where he offers to Vote six months next preceding the day of Election, who shall have been entered on the Books of the said parish one Month at Least preceding the day of Election as a member of the protestant episcopal church, and who shall also contribute to the charges of the said parish in which he offers to Vote such sum as a Majority of the Vestry in each parish shall annually within ten days after their Election in writing, shake known and declare, not Exceeding two dollars, shall have a right of suffrage in the Election of Vestrymen for such parish; and all persons so Qualified shall on the next ensuing Easter Monday, assemble in their respective parishes, at their parish church or if there shall be two or more protestant episcopal churches in any parish, at the church first built therein, or if there be in any parish no such church, then at such other place as the Rector of the parish, or if there be no Rector, as any three or more Vestrymen, may have publicly notified to the parishioners, and the said persons, so Qualified to Vote when assembled or such of them

as may assemble in each parish, shall proceed by a Majority of Votes, to elect by ballot Eight Vestrymen from among the persons Qualified to Vote who with the rector for the parish for the time being shall be deemed and considered the Vestry of the said parish for the ensuing year, and the Rector of the parish shall allways be one of the Vestry —

III And be it enacted, that the register of the parish shall, and it is Hereby declard to be his duty, to enral any person of the protestant Episcopal Church who shall apply for the purpose on the Books of the parish, under the penalty of Eight Dollars, and he shall be authorised to demand and receive the sum of Six cents for Each and every such enrolment.

IV And be it enacted, to perpetuate the Vestry in each parish that on refusal to serve, resignation, death, or removal from the parish with a View to reside elsewhere, or on Legal discharge from Serving, or any other disqualification of any person chosen a Vestryman, the Rector (if any) or if no Rector, any two of the Vestry, or of those persons who Last possessed the powers of Vestrymen, shall with all convenient speed, appoint a general meeting of the parishioners entitled to suffrage as aforesaid, at the parish church or elsewhere, as Herein before mentioned; and at such meeting, such of them as shall assemble shall proceed by a majority of Votes, to fill up such vacancy or vacancies, from among the persons Qualified to Vote, as herein before provided; and on every Easter Monday for ever, after the first Election as therein before directed, the parishioners entitled to suffrage shall assemble as herein before prescribed, and they, or such of them as may assemble, shall by a