

Anno 26<sup>to</sup> Geo. II. Cap. 25.

*An Act to render more effectual an Act made in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen Anne, intituled, An Act for providing a public Reward for such Person or Persons as shall discover the Longitude at Sea, with regard to the making Experiments of Proposals made for discovering the Longitude; and to enlarge the Number of Commissioners for putting in Execution the said Act.*

**W**H E R E A S by an act of parliament made in the twelfth year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, intituled, an act for providing a public reward for such person or persons as shall discover the longitude at sea, the commissioners therein and thereby named and constituted, or any five or more of them, have full power to hear and receive any proposal or proposals that shall be made to them for discovering the said longitude; and in case the said commissioners, or any five or more of them, shall be so far satisfied of the probability of any such discovery, as to think it proper to make experiment thereof, they shall certify the same, under their hands and seals, to  
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the commissioners of the navy for the time being, together with the persons names who are the authors of such proposals; and upon producing such certificate, the said commissioners are thereby authorized and required to make out a bill or bills for any such sum or sums of money not exceeding two thousand pounds, as the said commissioners for the discovery of the said longitude, or any five or more of them, shall think necessary for making the experiments, payable by the treasurer of the navy; which sum or sums the treasurer of the navy is by the said act required to pay immediately to such person or persons as shall be appointed by the commissioners for discovery of the said longitude to make those experiments, out of any money that shall be in his hands unapplied for the use of the navy: And whereas for a due and sufficient encouragement to any such person or persons as shall discover a proper method for finding the said longitude, it is likewise enacted by the said act, That the first author or authors, discoverer or discoverers of any such method, his or their executors administrators or assigns, shall be intitled to and have such reward as in the said act is particularly mentioned: And whereas by another act of parliament made in the fourteenth year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, An act for surveying the chief ports and head lands on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the islands and plantations thereto belonging, in order to the more exact determination of the longitude and latitude thereof, reciting in part the said act of parliament made in the twelfth year of the reign

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14 Geo. II.  
C. 39.

of her said late Majesty Queen Anne; and also reciting that it was absolutely necessary for making the discovery useful at sea, and for the security of ships approaching near the shoars, that the chief ports and head lands on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the islands and plantations thereto belonging, should be first surveyed, and the longitude and latitude of such places determined more exactly than had then been done; and likewise reciting that some doubts had arisen, whether by the words of the said act of parliament made in the twelfth year of Queen Anne, the said sum of two thousand pounds appointed for making such experiments, or any part thereof, could be applied for such survey, or fixing the longitude or latitude of such places; it was enacted by the said act made in the fourteenth year of the reign of his present Majesty, That the said commissioners for discovering the longitude, or any five or more of them, should have full power to apply such part of the said sum of two thousand pounds, mentioned in the said first recited act, as had not then been laid out in experiments, as they should think necessary, for the making such survey, and determining the longitude and latitude of the chief ports and head lands on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the islands and plantations thereto belonging; and that such sum or sums, part of the said two thousand pounds, which the said commissioners, or any five or more of them, should think necessary, should be paid immediately by the treasurer of the navy, to such person or persons as should be appointed by the said commissioners for the discovery of the longitude to make  
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such survey and determine such longitude and latitude, out of the money that should be in the hands of such treasurer unapplied for the use of the navy: And whereas a competent number of the said commissioners for the discovery of the said longitude, have (by virtue of the powers vested in them by the said act made in the twelfth year of the reign of Queen Anne) heard and received several proposals made to them at different times for discovering the said longitude, and were so far satisfied of the probabilities of such discoveries, that they thought it proper to make experiments thereof, and accordingly certified the same from time to time to the commissioners of the navy for the time being; together with the name of master John Harrison, who was author of the said proposals; whereupon bills were made out for several sums of money, amounting in the whole to one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds, all which respective sums were paid to the said John Harrison by the treasurer of the navy, pursuant to the directions of the said last-mentioned act of parliament, as parts of the said two thousand pounds therein mentioned; which the said commissioners for discovering the said longitude thought necessary for making the said experiments: And whereas a like competent number of the said commissioners for the discovery of the said longitude did (by virtue and in pursuance of the powers vested in them by the said several above mentioned acts of parliament) appoint master William Whiston to survey and determine the longitude and latitude of the chief ports and head lands on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the islands and plantations thereto

thereto belonging; and did also apply the further sum of five hundred pounds (other part of the said sum of two thousand pounds mentioned in the said act made in the twelfth year of the reign of Queen Anne) which they thought necessary for the making such survey, and determining the said last-mentioned longitude and latitude, and which said sum of five hundred pounds was paid to the said William Whiston accordingly by the treasurer of the navy: And whereas by reason of the several payments made by the treasurer of the navy to the said John Harrison and William Whiston respectively as aforesaid, amounting in the whole to one thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds, the said commissioners for discovering the said longitude have at present, by virtue of the said acts of parliament, power only to apply the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds, and no more (being the remainder of the said two thousand pounds) towards making any further experiments which they may think proper and necessary to be made in order to discover the said longitude: And whereas from the experiments which have already been made in pursuance of the powers vested in the said commissioners as aforesaid, there is great reason to expect, that by continuing to encourage ingenious persons to invent and make further improvements and experiments in order to discover the said longitude, such discoveries may at length be produced as will effectually answer that end, and therefore contribute very much to the advantage of the trade and honour of this kingdom: Therefore, for enabling the said commissioners to cause such further experiments to be made as they shall

*shall think proper for the purposes aforesaid; be it enacted by the King'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 the said commissioners constituted by the said act of parliament made in the twelfth year of the reign of the late Queen Anne, for the discovery of the longitude at sea, and for examining trying and judging of all propofals experiments and improvements relating to the same, or any five or more of them, have full power to hear and receive any propofal or propofals that have been or shall hereafter be made to them for discovering the said longitude at sea; and in case the said commissioners, or any five or more of them, shall be so far satisfied of the probability of any such propofal or discovery, as to think it proper to make experiment thereof, they shall certify the same under their hands and seals to the commissioners of the navy for the time being, together with the persons names who shall be the authors of such propofals; and upon producing such certificate, the said commissioners of the navy are hereby authorized and required to make out a bill or bills for any such sum or sums of money not exceeding two thousand pounds, over and above the aforesaid sum of two hundred and fifty pounds, being the remainder of the two thousand pounds mentioned in the said act made in the twelfth year*

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of the reign of the late Queen *Anne*, as the said commissioners for the discovery of the said longitude, or any five or more of them, shall think necessary for making any experiments in pursuance of this act, or either of the said former acts above-mentioned, payable by the treasurer of the navy; which sum or sums the treasurer of the navy for the time being is hereby required to pay immediately to such person or persons as shall be appointed by the commissioners for the discovery of the said longitude to make those experiments, out of any money that shall be in his the said treasurer's hands unapplied for the use of the navy.

II. *And whereas many of the commissioners appointed by the said act made in the twelfth year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne are deceased;* be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the governor of the royal hospital for seamen at *Greenwich* for the time being, the judge of the high court of admiralty for the time being, the secretaries of the treasury for the time being, the secretary of the admiralty for the time being, and the comptroller of the navy for the time being, shall be, and they are hereby added to and joined with such of the commissioners appointed by the said act for discovering the longitude, as are surviving; and the said persons hereby appointed commissioners shall and may act, to all intents and purposes, for putting in execution the said former acts and this present act, as fully and effectually  
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to be paid to  
the person  
making the  
experiment.

Additional  
commission-  
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By 2 Geo. III.  
c. 18. 2,000l.  
more may be  
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2,000l. more  
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c. 11.

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to be paid to the person making the experiment.

Additional commissioners.

By 2 Geo. III. c. 18. 2,000l. more may be applied to experiments; and 2,000l. more by 5 Geo. III. c. 11.

as if they had been appointed commissioners by the said act made in the twelfth year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen *Anne*.