

INTERPRETATION OF ACTS.

13 and 14 Vict., c. 21.

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AN ACT for shortening the Language used in Acts of Parliament.¹

[10th June, 1850.]

BE it declared and enacted that every Act to be Acts of Parliament may be

¹ This Act applies to the interpretation of Imperial Acts only.

13 & 14 Vict., passed after the commencement of this Act may be altered, amended, or repealed in the same session of Parliament, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

altered, &c., in the same session.

Acts to be divided into sections, without introductory words.

Where any Act is referred to, it shall be sufficient to cite the year of the reign, chapter, section, &c.

2. All Acts shall be divided into sections, if there be more enactments than one, which sections shall be deemed to be substantive enactments, without any introductory words.

3. In any Act, when any former Act is referred to, it shall be sufficient, if such Act was made before the seventh year of Henry the Seventh, to cite the year of the King's reign in which it was made, and where there are more Statutes than one in the same year the Statute, and where there are more chapters than one the chapter;

And if such Act referred to was made after the fourth year of Henry the Seventh, to cite the year of the reign, and where there are more Statutes or sessions than one in the same year the Statute or the session (as the case may require), and where there are more chapters or sections than one the chapter or section or chapter and section (as the case may require), without reciting the title of such Act, or the provision of such section, so referred to;

And the reference in all cases shall be made according to the copies of Statutes printed by the Queen's Printer, or to the copies thereof contained in the reports of the Commissioners of Public Records :

Provided that where it is only intended to amend or repeal any portion only of such section it shall be necessary still either to recite such portion or to set forth the matter or thing intended to be amended or repealed.

Interpretation of certain words for future Acts.

4. In all Acts words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed and taken to include females, and the singular to include the plural, and the plural the singular, unless the contrary as to gender or number is expressly provided ; and

The word "month" to mean calendar month, unless words be added showing lunar month to be intended ; and

"County" shall be held to mean also county of a town or of a city, unless such extended meaning is expressly excluded by words ; and

The word "land" shall include messuages; tenements, and hereditaments, houses and buildings, of any tenure, unless where there are words to exclude houses and buildings, or to restrict the meaning to tenements of some particular tenure ; and

The words "oath," "swear," and "affidavit" shall include affirmation, declaration, affirming, and declaring, in the case of persons by law allowed to declare or affirm instead of swearing.

5. Where any Act repealing in whole or in part any former Act is itself repealed, such last repeal shall not revive the Act or provisions before repealed, unless words be added reviving such Act or provisions.

13 & 14 Vict., c. 21.

Repealed Acts not to be revived, &c.

6. Wherever any Act shall be made repealing in whole or in part any former Act, and substituting some provision or provisions instead of the provision or provisions repealed, such provision or provisions so repealed shall remain in force until the substituted provision or provisions shall come into operation by force of the last-made Act.

Repealed provisions of any Act to remain in force until the substituted provisions come into force.

7. Every Act made after the commencement of this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such, unless the contrary be expressly provided and declared by such Act.

Acts to be deemed public Acts.

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JUDGMENT.

8 Hen. VI., c. 12.

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ITEM, our Lord the King hath ordained and established, by the authority of this present Parliament, that for error assigned, or to be assigned, in any record, process, or warrant of attorney, original writ or judicial, panel or return, in any places of the same rased or interlined, or in any addition, subtraction, or diminution of words, letters, titles, or parcel of letters, found in any such record, process, warrant of attorney, writ, panel, or return, which rasings, interlinings, addition, subtraction, or diminution, at the discretion of the King's Judges of the Courts and places in which the said records or process, by writ of error or otherwise, be certified, do appear suspected, no judgment nor record shall be reversed nor adnulled :

No judgment nor record shall be reversed nor avoided for rasures, interlineations, or error.

And that the King's Judges of the Courts and places in which any record, process, word, plea, warrant of attorney, writ, panel, or return, which for the time shall be, shall have power to examine such records, process, words, pleas, warrants of attorney, writs, panels, or return, by them and their clerks, and to reform and amend (in affirmance of the judgments of such records and processes) all that which to them in their discretion seemeth to be misprision of the clerks in such record, processes, word, plea, warrant of attorney, writ, panel, and return ; except appeals, indictments of treason and of felonies, and the outlawries of the same, and the substance of the proper names, surnames, and additions left out in original writs and writs of exigent, according to the Statute another time made the first year of King

The Judges may reform all defects in records which be misprision of the Clerk.

What defects in records may not be amended.