

a society for the laudable purpose of affording relief to each other and their respective families, in the event of sickness, distress and death, and have prayed an act of incorporation, that they may better execute their intentions, and the legislature being desirous of promoting such institutions: Therefore,

Dec. Ses. 1823

Incorporation

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That John Robb, William Houlton, Thoma L. Murphey, Robert Dutton, Peter Foy and others, that now are, or may hereafter become members of the said corporation herein erected, or may be admitted into the said corporation, agreeably to the constitution, rules and bye-laws of the same, and their successors are hereby declared to be one community, corporation and body politic forever, by the name, style and title of the Fell's Point Washington Beneficial Society; *Provided nevertheless,* that the said corporation may be dissolved at any time by the consent of its members as is hereinafter provided.

Proviso.

2. *And be it enacted,* That the affairs of the said society shall be managed and conducted by a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and five stewards, to be chosen annually on the second Monday in October, in each and every succeeding year, in such manner as the said society shall think proper to appoint.

Officers.

3. *And be it enacted,* That the present members of the said society, and their successors by their corporate name, shall and may have perpetual succession, and shall and may at all times hereafter, be persons able and capable in law to purchase, take, have and enjoy to them and their successors in fee or less estate or estates, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, chattels, United States' stock, bank stock, registered debt or other public securities within this state, and the same at pleasure to alien, sell, transfer, or lease in such manner as they may judge most conducive to the charitable uses of the said society; *Provided nevertheless,* that the said corporation or body politic, shall not at any one time, hold or possess property, real, personal or mixed, exceeding in total value the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

Privileges granted.

4. *And be it enacted,* That the members of the said corporation and their successors may meet together on the second Monday in October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, at some convenient place in the city of Baltimore, and on the same day annually forever thereafter, and then and there elect the officers of the said society, form such rules and regulations, and enact such bye-laws as may be necessary for assuring and carrying into effect the benevolent purposes of this act; *Provided* such rules, regulations and bye-laws be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, of the State of Maryland, or of the corporation of the city of Baltimore.

Meetings—bye-laws.

5. *And be it enacted,* That all appointment of officers for the said society heretofore made by the members thereof in their private capacities, shall respectively continue and be in full force until the time specified by this act for the first election of officers for the said corporation.

Present officers.

6. *And be it enacted,* That the said corporation and their successors, by the name aforesaid, shall be forever hereafter able and capable in law to sue, and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all or any courts of justice, and before all or any judges, officers or persons whatsoever, in all and singular actions, matters and demands whatsoever, and that all legal process that may hereafter be instituted by the said

Legal capacity.