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AN ACT

For the Protection of the Members of Fire Companies of Victoria.

WHEREAS, it is expedient to protect the Members of the Fire Companies and other Associations, in their efforts to prevent the destruction of property by Fire in the Town of Victoria and vicinity;

Be it enacted by the Governor on Her Majesty's behalf, by and with the consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly:

I. That all Fire Companies, whose members may desire to obtain the immunities hereinafter, shall, upon passing a resolution to that effect, be entitled to register the names and regulations of their said Companies in manner hereinafter mentioned.

II. That from and after the registration aforesaid, any Member of a Fire Company registered with the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice, shall not be liable for damage done by him to the property of any other person, in the extinction, or attempted extinction, of fire, or in the removal of any erection, edifice or building, which, regard being had to the safety of adjacent property, may be reasonably deemed expedient to remove.

III. Provided always, that in the destruction or removal of property aforesaid, the immunities hereinbefore given shall not extend to any person who shall act in such destruction or removal, contrary to or without the order of the person who, by the regulation of the Company to which he shall belong, shall be authorized to direct the actions of the said Company.

IV. Provided always, that if any person shall be nominated by the majority of the Fire Companies of Victoria, with the approval of the Governor, to direct proceedings at a fire, the orders of such persons shall, so far as the immunities hereby conferred are concerned, be equivalent to the orders of the person who shall be authorized to direct the actions of the said Company in the last section mentioned.

V. Provided also, that the immunities aforesaid shall not extend to any person who shall, in the destruction or removal of any property aforesaid, be guilty of malice, wanton mischievousness, or gross negligence.

VI. In case of any suit or action brought by any person against any member of any Fire Company so registered as aforesaid, in respect of damage done by such member, such member may obtain the benefit of this Act by a plea, in the words and figures following, "Not Guilty," by statute, without malice, wanton mischievousness, or gross negligence.

VII. The Registration shall consist of placing upon the file of the said Court, a copy of the Regulations of the Company desiring Registration.

VIII. No fee shall be demandable for the Registration aforesaid.

IX. This Act shall continue and be in force for one year from the passing thereof; and may be cited for all purposes as the "Fireman's Protection Act, 1860."

Passed the Council, 20th July, 1860.
Passed the House of Assembly, 26th July, 1860.
Received my assent, 28th August, 1860.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.