

**Vagrants, Presidency-towns**  
**ACT No. XXII. OF 1840.**  
**(Rep., Act 13 of 1856)**

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*Passed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council,  
on the 23d November, 1840.*

*An Act for the punishment of Vagrants within the Towns of Calcutta and of Madras, and the Islands of  
Bombay and Colaba extorting Alms by offensive and disgusting exhibitions and practices.*

I. WHEREAS Great inconvenience is experienced in the Towns of Calcutta and of Madras, and in the Islands of Bombay and Colaba from Mendicants who endeavor to extort alms by offensive and disgusting exhibitions and practices;--

It is hereby enacted, that persons within the Town of Calcutta or of Madras, or within the Islands of Bombay an Colaba who shall seek to extort alms by offensively exhibiting any bodily ailment or deformity, or by any offensive or indecent practices, or by inflicting, or threatening to inflict, bodily injury on themselves, shall be liable, on conviction before any Justice of the Peace, to imprisonment with or without labor for a term not exceeding one calendar month.

II. And it is hereby enacted, that all persons guilty a second time of any of the above offences, shall be liable, on conviction before a Justice of the Peace, to imprisonment with hard labor for a term not exceeding twice the period assigned for the first offence, and for the same term upon any subsequent conviction.

III. And it is hereby enacted, that persons guilty of any of the offences above mentioned who shall violently resist any Peace Officer attempting to apprehend them, shall be liable, on conviction before a Justice of the Peace, to imprisonment with or without hard labor for a term not exceeding three calendar months.

IV. And it is hereby enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor General in Council from time to time, by notice in the Gazette, to extend the provisions of this Act to any towns or districts besides the places specified in this Act.

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