

AN ACT
INCORPORATING

THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

WHEREAS, William Stephens, Grand Master; James Jackson, Past Grand Master; William Stith, Deputy Grand Master; James Box Young, Senior Grand Warden; Edward Lloyd and Balthazer Shaffer, Past Grand Wardens; Ulrich Tobler, Junior Grand Warden; George Jones, Past Grand Treasurer; David Bridie Mitchell, Past Grand Secretary, and John Blackstock, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons in this State, have by their petition stated, that there has existed, and still exists in this State, divers Lodges or Societies of Freemasons on an ancient establishment, since the year 1735, over which there is a presiding or superintending Grand Lodge, composed of the petitioners as members and divers others who are or may join in promoting the good of the Craft, founded on the ancient usages of their Society, the principles of which are charity and universal benevolence; to the end therefore that charitable institutions may be promoted, and particularly a Society that has existed [since] time immemorial, may be secured in their rights and privileges.

1. Be it, Therefore, Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, that the several persons hereinbefore named, and others who are or may become members of the Grand Lodge, and their successors, shall be, and they are hereby, deemed to be a body, corporate and politic, in name and deed, by the style of

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and by the said name and style shall have perpetual succession of officers and members, and a common seal to use; and shall have full power to make, alter, amend and change such by-laws as may be agreed on by the members of the same; provided such bylaws be not repugnant to the laws or Constitution of this State or the United States.

2. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that they shall have full power and authority, under the style and name of "The Grand Lodge of Georgia," to take, hold and enjoy real and personal property, to sue for and recover all such sum or sums of money as now are or hereafter may become due to the said Lodge, by any name or style whatever, at any court of law, or at any tribunal having jurisdiction thereof, and, the right and privileges of the said Lodge, in any court or at any tribunal whatever, to defend and also to receive, take and apply bequests or donations as may be made to and for the uses and purposes intended by the said institution; and shall be, and are hereby declared to be vested with all the powers and advantages, privileges and emoluments of a society of people incorporated to the purpose and intentions of their laudable institution.

3. And be it further enacted that all regular constituted Lodges under the power and jurisdiction of the said Grand Lodge, are hereby declared to be bodies corporate and politic in name and deed, by whatever style or name they may be called and known in their constitution, with equal powers to those which are hereby given to the said Grand Lodge, so long as the said Lodges remain under the powers and jurisdiction of the said Grand Lodge, and in all things abide by and conform themselves to the resolutions and by-laws

of the same, and no longer.

4. And be it further enacted, that this Act shall be, and is hereby declared to be deemed and considered a public Act to all intents and purposes whatever.

THOMAS NAPIER,
Speaker House Representatives.

BENJAMIN TALIAFERRO.
President Senate.

Concurred February 6, 1796.

JARED IRWIN,
Governor