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SENATE No. 311

To accompany the petition of John E. Beck for the penalizing of city and town officers who approve bills against such cities or towns when a deficit in the appropriation exists. Municipal Finance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen.

AN ACT

To penalize City and Town Officers for Approving Bills in Certain Cases.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter six hundred and sixty-nine of the
2 acts of the year nineteen hundred and thirteen
3 is hereby amended by inserting after section one
4 thereof the following new section, to be numbered
5 1a:— *Section 1a.* Any city or town officer,
6 or other person authorized to approve bills
7 against such city, town or any board or depart-
8 ment thereof, who approves such a bill, when the
9 total disbursements from the appropriation made
10 for such purpose, plus bills chargeable to the
11 same and already approved, has exhausted said
12 appropriation, or when the approval of such bill
13 would result in a deficit, shall be guilty of a
14 misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine
15 not exceeding one thousand dollars or by im-
16 prisonment not exceeding one year, or by both
17 such fine and imprisonment.

