

# HOUSE . . . . No. 316

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Bill accompanying the petition of James F. Griffin for legislation to prohibit the making or publishing of certain statements concerning the affairs of corporations, associations, firms and individuals. Joint Judiciary. January 11.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eleven.

### AN ACT

To prohibit the Making or Publishing of False Statements concerning the Affairs of Corporations, Associations, Partnerships or Individuals.

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

1 Any person who knowingly makes or publishes in any  
2 way whatever, or knowingly permits to be so made or  
3 published, any book, notice, report, statement, exhibit  
4 or other publication of or concerning the affairs, pe-  
5 cuniary condition or property of any corporation, joint  
6 stock association, co-partnership or individual, which said  
7 book, prospectus, notice, report, statement, exhibit or  
8 other publication shall contain any statement which is  
9 false, or which is wilfully or fraudulently exaggerated,

10 or which is intended to give or which shall have a tend-  
11 ency to give to the public generally or to any person a  
12 less or greater apparent value to the shares, bonds or  
13 property of said corporation, joint stock association, co-  
14 partnership or individual, than said shares, bonds or  
15 property or any part thereof shall really or in fact pos-  
16 sess, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and upon con-  
17 viction thereof shall be imprisoned for not more than  
18 five years or fined not more than five thousand dollars,  
19 or shall suffer both such imprisonment and fine.