

reason of its having been incurred in excess of available appropriations.

SECTION 2. No bill shall be approved by the city auditor of said city for payment or paid by the treasurer thereof under authority of this act unless and until a certificate has been signed and filed with said city auditor, stating under the penalties of perjury that the materials for which said bill was submitted were ordered by an official or an employee of said city and that such materials were delivered to said city.

SECTION 3. Any person who knowingly files a certificate required by section two which is false, and who thereby receives payment for materials which were not delivered to said city, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year or by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars, or both. *Approved July 29, 1971.*

**Chap. 589.** AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE TOWN OF METHUEN SHALL BE THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF SAID TOWN.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law and the acceptance of section ninety-seven A of chapter forty-one of the General Laws by the town of Methuen, the chief of police of said town shall be the appointing authority for all appointments to the police department of the town of Methuen.

SECTION 2. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed so as to affect the civil service status, seniority, rank, retirement and any other rights of any member or incumbents of any office within the police department of the town of Methuen; provided, however, that the board of selectmen shall be the appointing authority for the chief of police of said town.

SECTION 3. This act shall be submitted for acceptance to the voters of the town of Methuen at the annual town meeting to be held in the year nineteen hundred and seventy-two in the form of the following question, which shall be placed upon the official ballot to be used for the election of town officers at said meeting:—"Shall an act passed by the General Court in the year nineteen hundred and seventy-one, entitled 'An Act providing that the chief of police of the town of Methuen shall be the appointing authority for appointment to the police department of said town', be accepted?" If a majority of votes in answer to said question is in the affirmative, this act shall thereupon take effect, but not otherwise. *Approved July 29, 1971.*

**Chap. 590.** AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO PAY WEEKLY WAGES TO EMPLOYEES.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

Section 148 of chapter 149 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the last paragraph, as appearing in chapter 259 of the acts of 1956, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—