

[HOUSE BILL No. 319.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JAN. 3, 1865.—Read first and second times; continuing special order after last special orders; to be printed.

[By Mr. MILES, Military Committee.]

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A B I L L

*More effectually to prevent and punish Absentecism and Desertion in the Army.*

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1 SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of Ame-  
2 rica do enact, That every General commanding a department or  
3 separate army in the field, is hereby required to drop from the  
4 rolls any officer absent, without authority, for a longer period  
5 than thirty days.

1 SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That any regimental officer,  
2 who, in the opinion of the General commanding the department  
3 or separate army to which he belongs, shall willfully or care-  
4 lessly neglect the comfort and care of his men, or exhibit an  
5 undue laxity of discipline, shall be punished by suspending him  
6 from his rank and from all pay and allowances for such time,  
7 not to exceed three months, as the General commanding the de-  
8 partment or army may prescribe.

1 SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That any commissioned officer  
2 of the army, who shall knowingly recruit or receive into his

3 command any private belonging to another command, or shall,  
4 after being informed of the fact, neglect to return such private  
5 to his command, or to deliver him up to the proper authorities  
6 charged with the arrest of deserters, within the state where such  
7 officer may be, shall be dropped from the rolls by the President,  
8 upon satisfactory proof that the offence specified in this section  
9 has been committed by him.

1 SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That any officer, non-commis-  
2 sioned officer or private, who shall desert from the army, shall,  
3 in addition to the penalties now provided by law, have his name  
4 recorded in the Adjutant General's office, upon a separate and  
5 distinct roll to be kept for the purpose, copies of which shall  
6 be sent, every three months, to the Governors of the respective  
7 States and all Generals in command of separate departments or  
8 armies in the field.