SENATE BILL NO. 109.

(Items Vetoed in the General Deficiency Appropriation Bill.)

Executive Office, State of Texas,
Austin, March 19, 1907.

To the Secretary of State:

I herewith transmit Senate bill No. 109, entitled "An Act making appropriations for deficiencies in the appropriations heretofore made for the support of the State government for the fiscal years ending August 31, 1903, August 31, 1904, August 31, 1905, August 31, 1906, and August 31, 1907, being for claims registered in the Comptroller's office in accordance with law, and for outstanding claims not registered, and to make additional appropriations for the support of the State government for the years ending August 31, 1905, August 31, 1906, and August 31, 1907, and declaring an emergency."

I object to and disapprove the following appropriation items in said bill, which is hereto appended, viz.:

Item 1. "To pay fees of official stenographers for making transcripts in felony cases for the two years ending August 31, 1907, $25,000," page No. 2.

This item seems to be based on probable fees having their origin in an act of the Twenty-ninth Legislature which provides for the appointment of stenographers to report cases and to make up statement of facts of oral evidence in criminal cases "where the defendant is convicted of a felony and desires to appeal."

No appropriation was made for carrying this provision of the act into effect at the time of its passage, and I believe that probably no legal liability has been incurred against the State on this account. If, however, there are just claims against the State arising under the law referred to, the exact amount of each claim is capable of accurate ascertainment, and should be passed upon on its merits. The name of the claimant, the amount due such claimant, the case and service rendered in each case should, in my opinion, be accurately stated, even if the Legislature should authorize the creation of such deficiency in advance of the deficiency claim. It occurs to me that no service should be performed in pursuance of this law and no liability authorized or incurred against the State until an appropriation is made to carry the same into effect, and no deficiency claim should be tolerated until such deficiency is authorized by law.

Item 2. "To employ four additional clerks in the General Land Office at one hundred dollars per month each for the months of March, April, May, June, July and August, 1907, $2400," on page 8, and "salary of one additional clerk from March 1 to August 31, 1907, at one hundred dollars per month, $600, State Treasurer's office," on page 9 of this bill, are disapproved because the financial condition of the State, in my judgment, forbids either the increase of salaries or any increase in the number of department or other employes. However much the public service may be facilitated temporarily, the State's financial condition and the present deficiency calls for rigid economy in all branches of the public service.

T. M. CAMPBELL,
Governor.