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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 3914

03/15/2018 Authored by Poston, Green, Backer, Miller, Kresha and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Regional Governance Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; modifying provisions governing operation of animal-drawn
1.3 vehicles on public roadways; requiring development of a safety manual; amending
1.4 Minnesota Statutes 2016, sections 169.035, subdivision 3; 169.18, subdivision 10;
1.5 169.522, subdivision 1; 169.58, by adding a subdivision.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.035, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.8 Subd. 3. **Transportation by animal.** ~~Every~~ A person riding an animal or ~~driving any~~
1.9 ~~animal drawing a~~ operating an animal-drawn vehicle upon a roadway ~~shall be~~ is subject to
1.10 the provisions of this chapter applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except those provisions
1.11 which by their nature can have no application. A person operating an animal-drawn vehicle
1.12 must comply with sections 169.18, subdivision 10, 169.522, and 169.58, subdivision 5.

1.13 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.18, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

1.14 Subd. 10. **Slow-moving vehicle.** (a) Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less
1.15 than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the existing conditions ~~then~~
1.16 ~~existing shall~~ must be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as
1.17 practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, ~~except.~~ This subdivision does not
1.18 apply when (1) the vehicle is overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same
1.19 direction, or when (2) the vehicle is preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a
1.20 private road or driveway, or (3) when a specific lane is designated and posted for a specific
1.21 type of traffic.

1.22 (b) An animal-drawn vehicle must always operate in the manner required by this
1.23 subdivision.

2.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.522, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.2 Subdivision 1. **Displaying emblem; rules.** (a) All animal-drawn vehicles, motorized
2.3 golf carts when operated on designated roadways pursuant to section 169.045, implements
2.4 of husbandry, and other machinery, including all road construction machinery, which are
2.5 designed for operation at a speed of 30 miles per hour or less, must display a triangular
2.6 slow-moving vehicle emblem, except (1) when being used in actual construction and
2.7 maintenance work and traveling within the limits of a construction area marked in accordance
2.8 with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as set forth in section 169.06, or (2)
2.9 for a towed implement of husbandry that is empty and that is not self-propelled, in which
2.10 case it may be towed at lawful speeds greater than 30 miles per hour without removing the
2.11 slow-moving vehicle emblem. The emblem must consist of a fluorescent or illuminated
2.12 red-orange triangle with a dark red reflective border and be mounted so as to be visible from
2.13 a distance of not less than 600 feet to the rear. When a primary power unit towing an
2.14 implement of husbandry or other machinery displays a slow-moving vehicle emblem visible
2.15 from a distance of 600 feet to the rear, it is not necessary to display a similar emblem on
2.16 the secondary unit. All slow-moving vehicle emblems sold in this state must be so designed
2.17 that when properly mounted they are visible from a distance of not less than 600 feet to the
2.18 rear when directly in front of lawful lower beam of headlamps on a motor vehicle. The
2.19 commissioner of public safety shall adopt standards and specifications for the design and
2.20 position of mounting the slow-moving vehicle emblem. Such standards and specifications
2.21 must be adopted by rule in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

2.22 (b) An alternate slow-moving vehicle emblem consisting of a dull black triangle with a
2.23 white reflective border may be used after obtaining a permit from the commissioner under
2.24 rules of the commissioner. A person with a permit to use an alternate slow-moving vehicle
2.25 emblem must:

2.26 (1) carry in the vehicle a regular slow-moving vehicle emblem and display the emblem
2.27 when operating a vehicle between sunset and sunrise, and at any other time when visibility
2.28 is impaired by weather, smoke, fog, or other conditions; and

2.29 (2) permanently affix to the rear of the slow-moving vehicle at least 72 square inches
2.30 of reflective tape that reflects the color red.

2.31 (c) In addition to the emblem requirement under this subdivision, an animal-drawn
2.32 vehicle must comply with section 169.58, subdivision 5.

3.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.58, is amended by adding a subdivision to
3.2 read:

3.3 Subd. 5. **Animal-drawn vehicles.** (a) An animal-drawn vehicle must be equipped with
3.4 an identification lamp or lamps that indicate the vehicle's presence and are visible from a
3.5 distance of at least 500 feet from both the front and the rear. The lighting requirement under
3.6 this subdivision may be met using a lamp powered by energy generated from the vehicle's
3.7 movement.

3.8 (b) This subdivision does not apply to an animal-drawn vehicle that (1) operates
3.9 exclusively between the hours of sunrise and sunset and never during periods of reduced
3.10 visibility, inclement weather, or insufficient light; or (2) never operates on a public roadway.

3.11 Sec. 5. **ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLES; SAFETY MANUAL.**

3.12 (a) The commissioner of public safety, in collaboration with the state patrol, traffic safety
3.13 organizations, and other interested parties, must develop and publish an animal-drawn
3.14 vehicles safety manual. When developing the manual, the commissioner must evaluate
3.15 similar manuals already published by other states, including Pennsylvania.

3.16 (b) At a minimum, the safety manual must discuss and provide specific guidance with
3.17 respect to:

3.18 (1) animal-drawn vehicle courtesy and conduct;

3.19 (2) relevant traffic regulations, including traffic signs, traffic signals, pavement markings,
3.20 driving rules, and equipment requirements;

3.21 (3) an overview of how other vehicles and motorists interact with animal-drawn vehicles
3.22 on the roadway;

3.23 (4) safety best practices;

3.24 (5) travel information; and

3.25 (6) any other information the commissioner of public safety deems necessary.

3.26 (c) The commissioner must publish the manual under this section on or before January
3.27 1, 2020.

3.28 (d) The manual under this section is not an administrative rule under Minnesota Statutes,
3.29 chapter 14. The commissioner of public safety is exempt from provisions of that chapter
3.30 with respect to any activities taken under this section.