

CHAPTER 118—H. F. No. 684.

An act relating to the issuance by railroad companies of mileage books for transportation of passengers, and to the acceptance thereof for transportation by other than the issuing company.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Railroad companies directed to keep on sale at every station 2,000 mile mileage books, good for one year, and redeemable within 30 days after expiration of year.—Every railroad company owning, operating or using a steam railroad in this state for the intrastate transportation of passengers, shall from and after the effective date of the order provided for in sections 3 and 5 of this act keep on sale at all its ticket offices in this state mileage books for passenger transportation containing coupon tickets representing two thousand miles, good for intrastate transportation between stations on said railroad in this state, when presented for transportation by the original purchaser thereof. Such mileage books shall be sold at a price not to exceed the maximum rate per mile authorized by law to be charged by the railroad company issuing the same for the intrastate transportation of passengers between stations in this state, and the tickets contained therein shall show on their face the rate per mile paid therefor. Such mileage books shall be valid for one year from the date of purchase and if not wholly used within the year, the company issuing the same shall redeem the unused coupons therein, if presented by the purchaser for redemption within thirty days after the expiration of the year, at the rate per mile paid therefor.

Sec. 2. If rates are increased coupons are good for pro rata increase.—If any such railroad company after issuing a mileage book or books hereunder and before such mileage book or books shall be used up by the purchaser thereof, shall lawfully issue mileage books hereunder at an increased rate, the unused coupons in all unexpired mileage books theretofore issued shall thereafter be good on such railroad only for the proportionate mileage which the rate paid therefor would have purchased at such increased rate.

Sec. 3. Proceedings by railroad and warehouse commission for enforcement of above sections.—The railroad and warehouse commission of this state within ten days after this act takes effect, shall notify every railroad company owning, operating or using a steam railroad in this state, that it will upon a day named in such notice, which day shall not be earlier than thirty days after the giving of such notice, take up for investigation the subject of requiring all railroad companies owning, operating or using steam railroads in this state to accept for the

intrastate transportation of passengers between stations on their said railroads in this state, mileage tickets issued by other railroad companies pursuant to the provisions of this act. All corporations, partnerships and persons interested in the subject may present themselves at the hearing and be heard under such reasonable rules and regulations as the said commission may prescribe. In such investigation, which shall be conducted with all due diligence, the said commission shall take into consideration the financial responsibility of the various railroad companies owning, operating or using steam railroads in this state, and the rates authorized by law to be charged by such railroad companies for the intrastate transportation of passengers between stations on their said railroads in this state, and any other pertinent matters; and after considering the same shall make findings of fact relative to the matters considered by it and an order based thereon wherein it shall establish just and reasonable rules and regulations, pursuant to which such railroad companies shall be required to accept for the intrastate transportation of passengers between stations on their said railroads in this state, mileage tickets issued by other railroad companies pursuant to this act.

Sec. 4. Certain railroad companies may be excluded from provisions of this act.—If on such investigation the commission shall find that any such railroad company is financially irresponsible or that for any other just and reasonable cause other railroad companies ought not to be required to accept for transportation mileage tickets issued by such company, the said commission shall in its rules and regulations exclude from the operation of section 6 of this act, mileage tickets issued by any such company.

Sec. 5. Order to be issued when provisions become effective.—The order shall fix the date when such rules and regulation shall become effective, which shall be not less than thirty days from the making and filing of such order, and shall be served upon the railroad companies affected thereby as provided in section 1967, Revised Laws of 1905, the same being section 4183, General Statutes of 1913. Every such railroad company shall publish and adopt such rules and regulations and shall comply therewith as soon as the same shall become effective.

Sec. 6. Mileage book issued by one company to be good on all lines coming under above provisions.—Subject to the provisions of such rules and regulations every such railroad company shall accept for the intrastate transportation of passengers between stations in this state over all steam railroads owned, operated or used by it, mileage tickets issued by other railroad companies pursuant to the provisions of this act.

Sec. 7. Commission may revise rules and regulations.—The

railroad and warehouse commission upon such reasonable notice as it may prescribe may from time to time upon its own motion, or upon the application of any corporation, partnership or person interested therein, revise change or add to any rule or regulation fixed hereunder and any such revised, changed or added rules and regulations shall be served in the same manner and have the same force and effect as the rules and regulations originally established.

Sec. 8. Purchaser to have same rights on all railroads affected.—Any such mileage book when presented for transportation, either to the railroad company issuing the same or to another railroad company pursuant to the rules and regulations fixed by the commission, shall entitle the purchaser thereof to the same rights and privileges in respect to the transportation of both person and property, to which the highest class ticket issued by the railroad company to which it is presented would entitle him.

Sec. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 26, 1917.

CHAPTER 119—S. F. No. 609.

An act abolishing the state highway commission; creating the office of commissioner of highways; providing for the appointment of an incumbent of such office; prescribing his compensation; appropriating money for the payment thereof; prescribing his powers and duties and devolving upon such commissioner of highways the powers, privileges and duties heretofore vested in, granted to and imposed upon the state highway commission; providing that such office shall be, in effect, a continuation of such state highway commission; providing for the payment of the expenses of the highway department and salary of said commissioner from the state road and bridge fund; appropriating money therefrom for the payment of such expenses and salary; limiting the amount which may be so used for such expenses and salary and also amending sections 3, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 30, 31, 40, 65, 70, 73, 75, 81, 87, 88 and 90 of chapter 235, Laws 1913, as amended by chapter 116, Laws 1915, and chapter 160, Laws 1915, which said chapter 235 is entitled: "An act relating to public highways; the powers and duties of counties, towns, villages and cities in relation thereto; the creation of a state highway commission; prescribing its powers and duties, appropriating money therefor and providing for the payment of state aid for the construction