

## CHAPTER 169

## HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION

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**169.01 DEFINITIONS.** Subdivision 1. **Terms.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. **Vehicle.** "Vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

Subd. 3. **Motor vehicle.** "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which is self-propelled and not deriving its power from overhead wires.

Subd. 4. **Motorcycle.** "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, including motor scooters and bicycles with motor attached, but excluding a tractor.

Subd. 5. **Authorized emergency vehicle.** "Authorized emergency vehicle" means any of the following vehicles when equipped and identified according to law: (1) A vehicle of a fire department; (2) a publicly owned police vehicle or a privately owned vehicle used by a police officer for police work under agreement, express or implied, with the local authority to which he is responsible; (3) an ambulance, whether publicly or privately owned; (4) an emergency vehicle of a municipal department or a public service corporation; (5) any volunteer rescue squad operating pursuant to Chapter 53, Laws 1959.

Subd. 6. **School bus.** "School bus" means every motor vehicle owned by a public or governmental agency and operated for the transportation of children to or from school or privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from school.

Subd. 7. **Truck-tractor.** "Truck-tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and load so drawn.

Subd. 8. **Farm tractor.** "Farm tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing-machines, and other implements of husbandry.

Subd. 9. **Road tractor.** "Road tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry any load thereon either independently or any part of the weight of a vehicle or load so drawn.

Subd. 10. **Trailer.** "Trailer" means every vehicle without motive power designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle.

Subd. 11. **Semi-trailer.** "Semi-trailer" means every vehicle without motive power designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle.

Subd. 12. **Pneumatic tire.** "Pneumatic tire" means every tire in which compressed air is designed to support the load.

Subd. 13. **Solid tire.** "Solid tire" means every tire of rubber or other resilient material which does not depend upon compressed air for the support of the load.

Subd. 14. **Metal tire.** "Metal tire" means every tire the surface of which in contact with the highway is wholly or partly of metal or other hard non-resilient material.

Subd. 15. **Railroad.** "Railroad" means a carrier of persons or property upon cars, other than street cars, operated upon stationary rails.

Subd. 16. **Railroad train.** "Railroad train" means a steam engine, electric or other motor, with or without cars coupled thereto, operated upon rails, except street cars.

Subd. 17. [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]

Subd. 18. **Trackless trolley car.** "Trackless trolley car" means every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires but not operated on rails.

Subd. 19. **Explosives.** "Explosives" means any chemical compound or mechanical mixture that is commonly used or intended for the purpose of producing an explosion and which contains any oxidizing and combustible units or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities, or packing that an ignition by fire, by friction, by concussion, by percussion, or by detonator of any part of the compound or mixture may cause such a sudden generation of highly heated gases that the resultant gaseous pressures are capable of producing destructible effects on contiguous objects or of destroying life or limb.

Subd. 20. **Flammable liquid.** "Flammable liquid" means any liquid which has a flash point of 70 degrees Fahrenheit, or less, as determined by a tagliabue or equivalent closed cup test device.

Subd. 21. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of highways of this state, acting directly or through his duly authorized officers and agents.

Subd. 22. **Department.** "Department" means the department of highways of this state, acting directly or through its duly authorized officers and agents.

Subd. 23. **Person.** "Person" means every natural person, firm, copartnership, association, or corporation.

Subd. 24. **Pedestrian.** "Pedestrian" means any person afoot.

Subd. 25. **Driver.** "Driver" means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

Subd. 26. **Owner.** "Owner" means a person who holds the legal title of a vehicle, or in the event a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee, or in the event a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then such conditional vendee or lessee or mortgagor shall be deemed the owner for the purpose of this chapter.

Subd. 27. **Police officer.** "Police officer" means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.

Subd. 28. **Local authorities.** "Local authorities" means every county, municipal, and other local board or body having authority to adopt local police regulations under the constitution and laws of this state, and the Regents of the University of Minnesota, with reference to property owned, leased, or occupied, by the Regents of the University of Minnesota, or the University of Minnesota.

Subd. 29. **Street or highway.** "Street or highway" means the entire width between boundary lines of any way or place when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for the purposes of vehicular traffic.

Subd. 30. **Private road or driveway.** "Private road or driveway" means every way or place in private ownership and used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other persons.

Subd. 31. **Roadway.** "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel. In the event a highway includes two or more separate roadways the term "roadway" as used herein shall refer to any such roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively.

Subd. 32. **One-way roadway.** "One-way roadway" means a street or roadway designated and sign-posted for one-way traffic and on which all vehicles are required to move in one indicated direction.

Subd. 33. **Sidewalk.** "Sidewalk" means that portion of a street between the curb lines, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines intended for the use of pedestrians.

Subd. 34. **Laned highway.** "Laned highway" means a highway the roadway of which is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.

Subd. 35. **Through highway.** "Through highway" means every highway or portion thereof at the entrances to which vehicular traffic from intersecting highways is required by law to stop before entering or crossing the same and when stop signs are erected as provided in this chapter.

Subd. 36. **Intersection.** "Intersection" means (a) the area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral curb lines, or, if none, then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways which join one another, at, or approximately at, right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling upon different highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict.

(b) Where a highway includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by an intersecting highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection. In the event such intersecting highway also includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of such highways shall be regarded as a separate intersection.

Subd. 37. **Crosswalk.** "Crosswalk" means (1) that portion of a roadway ordinarily included with the prolongation or connection of the lateral lines of sidewalks at intersections; (2) any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

Subd. 38. **Safety zone.** "Safety zone" means the area or space officially set apart within a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and which is protected or is so marked or indicated by adequate signs as to be plainly visible at all times set apart as a safety zone.

Subd. 39. **Business district.** "Business district" means the territory contiguous to and including a highway when 50 percent or more of the frontage thereon for a distance of 300 feet or more is occupied by buildings in use for business.

Subd. 40. **Residence district.** "Residence district" means the territory contiguous to and including a highway not comprising a business district when the

property on such highway for a distance of 300 feet or more is in the main improved with residences or residences and buildings in use for business.

Subd. 41. **Official traffic control devices.** "Official traffic control devices" means all signs, signals, markings, and devices not inconsistent with this chapter placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

Subd. 42. **Traffic control signal.** "Traffic control signal" means any device, whether manually, electrically or mechanically operated, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and to proceed.

Subd. 43. **Railroad sign or signal.** "Railroad sign or signal" means any sign, signal, or device erected by authority of a public body or official or by a railroad and intended to give notice of the presence of railroad tracks or the approach of a railroad train.

Subd. 44. **Traffic.** "Traffic" means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, street cars, and other conveyances, either singly or together, while using any highway for purposes of travel.

Subd. 45. **Right of way.** "Right of way" means the privilege of the immediate use of highway.

Subd. 46. **Gross weight.** "Gross weight" means the unloaded weight of a vehicle or the unloaded weight of a truck-tractor and semi-trailer combination, plus the weight of the load.

Subd. 47. **Custom service vehicles.** "Custom service vehicles" means all vehicles used as well-drilling machine, wood-sawing machine, cement mixer, rock crusher, road grader, ditch digger, or elevating grader, and similar service equipment.

Subd. 48. **Motor vehicle dealer.** "Motor vehicle dealer" means any person engaged in the business of manufacturing or selling new and unused motor vehicles, or used motor vehicles, or both, having an established place of business for the sale, trade, and display of such motor vehicles, and having in his possession motor vehicles for the purpose of sale or trade.

Subd. 49. **Truck.** "Truck" means every motor vehicle designed, used or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

Subd. 50. **Bus.** "Bus" means every motor vehicle designed for carrying more than ten passengers and used for the transportation of persons, and every motor vehicle other than a taxicab designed and used for the transportation of persons for compensation.

Subd. 51. **Bicycle.** "Bicycle" means every device propelled by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels either of which is over 20 inches in diameter, and including any device generally recognized as a bicycle though equipped with two front or rear wheels.

Subd. 52. **Wrecker.** "Wrecker" means a motor vehicle having a gross vehicle weight of 8,000 pounds or more, equipped with a crane and winch and further equipped to control the movement of the towed vehicle.

Subd. 53. **Bug deflector.** "Bug deflector" means a non-illuminated, transparent device attached to the hood of a motor vehicle so as to deflect the air stream.

Subd. 54. **Controlled access highway.** "Controlled access highway" means, in Chapter 169, every highway, street, or roadway in respect to which the right of access of the owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons has been acquired and to which the owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no legal right of access to or from the same except at such points only and in such manner as may be determined by the public authority having jurisdiction over such highway, street or roadway.

Subd. 55. **Implement of husbandry.** "Implement of husbandry" means every vehicle designed and adapted exclusively for agricultural, horticultural, or livestock-raising operations or for lifting or carrying an implement of husbandry and in either case not subject to registration if used upon the highways.

Subd. 56. **Stand or standing.** "Stand or standing" means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in receiving or discharging passengers.

Subd. 57. **Stop.** "Stop" means complete cessation from movement.

Subd. 58. **Stopping.** "Stopping" means any halting even momentarily of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other

traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control sign or signal.

**Subd. 59. Urban district.** "Urban district" means the territory contiguous to and including any street which is built up with structures devoted to business, industry, or dwelling houses situated at intervals of less than 100 feet for a distance of a quarter of a mile or more.

[1937 c 464 s 1; Ex1937 c 38 s 1; 1939 c 430 s 1; 1947 c 204 s 1; 1947 c 428 s 1-4; 1949 c 90 s 1; 1949 c 247 s 1; 1951 c 114 s 1; 1951 c 331 s 1; 1953 c 289 s 1; 1953 c 303 s 1; 1955 c 536 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 1; 1961 c 42 s 1] (2720-151)

**169.02 SCOPE.** Subdivision 1. The provisions of this chapter relating to the operation of vehicles refer exclusively to the operation of vehicles upon highways, and upon highways, streets, private roads, and roadways situated on property owned, leased, or occupied by the Regents of the University of Minnesota, or the University of Minnesota, except:

- (1) Where a different place is specifically referred to in a given section;
- (2) The provisions of sections 169.09 to 169.13 shall apply upon highways and elsewhere throughout the state.

**Subd. 2.** It is unlawful and, unless otherwise declared in this chapter with respect to particular offenses, it is a misdemeanor, for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this chapter.

**Subd. 3.** No person shall wilfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any peace officer invested by law with authority to direct, control, or regulate traffic.

[1937 c 464 s 2, 3, 4; 1947 c 204 s 2] (2720-152, 2720-153, 2720-154)

**169.03 APPLICATION.** The provisions of this chapter applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this state, or any county, city, town, district, or any other political subdivision of the state, subject to such specific exemptions as are set forth in this chapter with reference to authorized emergency vehicles.

The driver of any authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, upon approaching a red or stop signal or any stop sign shall slow down as necessary for safety, but may proceed cautiously past such red or stop sign or signal after sounding siren and displaying red lights.

The driver of any authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to any emergency call, may enter against the run of traffic on any one-way street, or highway where there is authorized division of traffic, to facilitate traveling to the area in which an emergency has been reported; and the provisions of this section shall not affect any cause of action arising prior to its passage.

No driver of any authorized emergency vehicle shall assume any special privilege under this chapter except when such vehicle is operated in response to any emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to persons, teams, motor vehicles, and other equipment while actually engaged in work upon the roadway of a highway, but shall apply to such persons and vehicles when traveling to or from such work.

Streetcars and trackless trolley cars, except where otherwise specifically provided, shall be governed by the same rules and regulations as provided in this chapter for vehicles and motor vehicles, only insofar as such regulations apply to speed, stopped at through streets and railroad tracks, and obeying signals of traffic-control devices and rights of way, driving under the influence of drugs or intoxicating liquor, careless driving, and the stopping at the scene of an accident and giving the information as required by this chapter, and following vehicles too closely, and shall be entitled to the same rights and benefits of this chapter, as to warning, turning and stopping signals and rights of way, as any vehicles or motor vehicle in the streets and highways of this state.

Every person riding a bicycle or an animal or driving any animal drawing a vehicle upon a roadway shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except those provisions which by their nature can have no application.

The provisions of this chapter shall be applicable and uniform throughout this state and in all political subdivisions and municipalities therein, and no local authority shall enact or enforce any rule or regulation in conflict with the provisions of this chapter unless expressly authorized herein. Local authorities may adopt traffic

regulations which are not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter; provided, that when any local ordinance regulating traffic covers the same subject for which a penalty is provided for in this chapter, then the penalty provided for violation of said local ordinance shall be identical with the penalty provided for in this chapter for the same offense.

[1937 c 464 s 5, 6, 7; 1945 c 383 s 1; 1949 c 521; 1957 c 130 s 1; 1959 c 66 s 1] (2720-155, 2720-156, 2720-157)

**169.04 LOCAL AUTHORITIES.** The provisions of this chapter shall not be deemed to prevent local authorities, with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction, and with the consent of the commissioner, with respect to state trunk highways, within the corporate limits of a municipality, or within the limits of a town in a county in this state now having or which may hereafter have, a population of 500,000 or more, and a land area of not more than 600 square miles, and within the reasonable exercise of the police power from:

- (1) Regulating the standing or parking of vehicles;
- (2) Regulating traffic by means of police officers or traffic-control signals;
- (3) Regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblages on the highways;
- (4) Designating particular highways as one-way roadways and requiring that all vehicles, except emergency vehicles, when on an emergency run, thereon be moved in one specific direction;
- (5) Designating any highway as a through highway and requiring that all vehicles stop before entering or crossing the same, or designating any intersection as a stop intersection, and requiring all vehicles to stop at one or more entrances to such intersections;

- (6) Restricting the use of highways as authorized in sections 169.80 to 169.88.

No ordinance or regulation enacted under clause (4), (5), or (6) shall be effective until signs giving notice of such local traffic regulations are posted upon and kept posted upon or at the entrance to the highway or part thereof affected as may be most appropriate.

[1937 c 464 s 8; 1939 c 359; 1957 c 130 s 2] (2720-158)

**169.05 PRIVATE ROADWAYS.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the owner of real property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel by permission of the owner and not as a matter of right, from prohibiting such use, or from requiring other or different or additional conditions than those specified in this chapter, or otherwise regulating such use as may seem best to such owner.

[1937 c 464 s 9] (2720-159)

**169.06 SIGNS, SIGNALS, MARKINGS.** Subdivision 1. **Uniform system.** The commissioner shall adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic-control devices consistent with the provisions of this chapter for use upon highways within this state. Such uniform system shall correlate with and so far as possible conform to the system then current as approved by the American Association of State Highway Officials. The adoption of the manual and specifications by the commissioner as herein provided is specifically exempted from the provisions and requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 15.042.

Subd. 2. **Placement and maintenance on trunk highways.** The commissioner shall place and maintain such traffic-control devices, conforming to the manual and specifications, upon all state trunk highways as he shall deem necessary to indicate and to carry out the provisions of this chapter or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic. The commissioner may construct and maintain signs at the entrance of each city, village, or borough, which sign shall have placed thereon the name of the city, village, or borough and the population thereof. The commissioner may construct and maintain other directional signs upon the trunk highways and such signs shall be uniform.

No other authority shall place or maintain any traffic-control device upon any highway under the jurisdiction of the commissioner except by the latter's permission.

Subd. 3. **Placement and maintenance by local authorities.** Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall place and maintain such traffic-control devices upon highways under their jurisdiction as they may deem necessary to indicate and to carry out the provisions of this chapter or local traffic ordinances, or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic. All such traffic-control devices hereafter erected shall conform to the state manual and specifications.

Subd. 4. **Observance.** No driver of a vehicle or motorman of a street car or

pedestrian, or person riding an animal, or bicycle, shall disobey the instructions of any official traffic-control device placed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, unless at the time otherwise directed by a police officer.

**Subd. 5. Traffic-control signals.** When traffic is controlled by traffic-control signals exhibiting the words "Go," "Caution," or "Stop," or exhibiting different colored lights successively one at a time, or with arrows, the following colors only shall be used, which terms and lights shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(a) Green alone, or "Go"—

(1) Except when prohibited under section 169.24, vehicular traffic facing the signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits the turn; vehicular traffic shall yield the right of way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection at the time that signal is exhibited.

(2) Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk;

(b) Yellow alone, or "Caution," when shown following the green or "Go" signal—

(1) Vehicular traffic facing the signal is thereby warned that the red or "Stop" signal will be exhibited immediately thereafter and such vehicular traffic shall not enter or be crossing the intersection when the red or "Stop" signal is exhibited.

(2) Pedestrians facing such signal are thereby advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway, and any pedestrian then starting to cross shall yield the right of way to all vehicles.

(c) Red alone, or "Stop"—

(1) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until green or "Go" is shown alone;

(2) No pedestrian facing such signal shall enter the roadway.

(d) Red with green arrow—

(1) Vehicular traffic facing such signal may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by the arrow, but shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within a crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

(2) No pedestrian facing such signal shall enter the roadway.

(e) In the event an official traffic-control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section are applicable except those which can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made at the signal.

(f) The motorman of any street car shall obey the above signals as applicable to vehicles.

**Subd. 6. Pedestrian signals.** When special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting the words "Walk," "Don't Walk," or "Wait" are in place such signals shall indicate as follows:

(a) A pedestrian facing a "Walk" signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles.

(b) No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of a "Wait" or "Don't Walk" signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the "Walk" signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the "Wait" or "Don't Walk" signal is showing.

**Subd. 7. Flashing signals.** When flashing red or yellow signals are used they shall require obedience by vehicular traffic, as follows:

(1) When a red lens is illuminated by rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line when marked, and the right to proceed is subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign;

(2) When a yellow lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past the signals only with caution.

[1937 c 464 s 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15; 1939 c 418; 1941 c 419; 1947 c 428 s 5, 6; 1955 c 325 s 1; 1957 c 369 s 1; 1961 c 31 s 1] (2720-160, 2720-161, 2720-162, 2720-163, 2720-164, 2720-165)

**169.07 UNAUTHORIZED SIGNS.** No person shall place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any highway any unauthorized sign, signal, marking, or device

which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic-control device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic-control device or any railroad sign or signal, and no person shall place or maintain, nor shall any public authority permit, upon any highway any traffic sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial advertising. This shall not be deemed to prohibit the erection upon private property adjacent to highways of signs giving useful directional information and of a type that cannot be mistaken for official signs.

Every such prohibited sign, signal, or marking is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, and the authority having jurisdiction over the highways is hereby empowered to remove the same, or cause it to be removed, without notice.

[1937 c 464 s 16] (2720-166)

**169.073 RED LIGHTS FORBIDDEN.** No person or corporation shall place, maintain or display any red light or red sign, signal, or lighting device or maintain the same in view of any highway or any line of railroad on or over which trains are operated in such a way as to interfere with the effectiveness or efficiency of any highway traffic-control device or signals or devices used in the operation of a railroad. Upon written notice from the commissioner of highways such person or corporation maintaining or owning or displaying said prohibited light shall promptly remove the same, or change the color thereof to some other color than red. Where such prohibited light or sign interferes with the effectiveness or efficiency of the signals or devices used in the operation of a railroad, the railroad and warehouse commission shall have authority to cause the removal of the same and the commission shall have authority to issue notices and orders for such removal. The commission shall proceed as provided in sections 216.13, 216.14, 216.15, 216.16, and 216.17, with a right of appeal to the aggrieved party as provided in section 216.25.

It shall be a misdemeanor for any person or corporation to maintain or display any such light after written notice thereof from the commissioner of highways or the railroad and warehouse commission that such light constitutes a traffic hazard and has ordered the removal thereof.

[1943 c 141; 1961 c 560 s 15]

**169.08 UNLAWFUL TO ALTER, DEFACE, OR REMOVE SIGNS.** No person shall, without lawful authority, attempt to or in fact alter, deface, injure, knock down, or remove any official traffic-control device or any railroad sign or signal or any inscription, shield, or insignia thereon, or any other part thereof.

[1937 c 464 s 17] (2720-167)

**169.09 ACCIDENTS.** Subdivision 1. **Driver to stop.** The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person shall immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident, or as close thereto as possible, but shall then return to and in every event, shall remain at, the scene of the accident until he has fulfilled the requirements of this chapter as to the giving of information. The stop shall be made without unnecessarily obstructing traffic.

Any person failing to stop or to comply with these requirements under such circumstances shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment for not less than ten, nor more than 90, days, or by a fine of not less than \$10, nor more than \$100.

Subd. 2. **Driver to stop.** The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident to a vehicle which is driven or attended by any person shall immediately stop such vehicle at the scene of such accident, or as close thereto as possible, but shall forthwith return to, and in every event shall remain at, the scene of the accident until he has fulfilled the requirements of this chapter as to the giving of information. Every such stop shall be made without obstructing traffic more than is necessary. Any person failing to stop or to comply with these requirements under such circumstances shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 3. **Driver to give information.** The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person, or damage to any vehicle which is driven or attended by any person, shall stop and give his name, address, and the registration number of the vehicle he is driving, and shall, upon request and if available, exhibit his driver's or chauffeur's license to the person struck or the driver or occupant of or person attending any vehicle collided with, and shall render reasonable assistance to any person injured in such accident.

Subd. 4. **Collision with unattended vehicle.** The driver of any vehicle which collides with and damages any vehicle which is unattended shall immediately stop



and either locate and notify the driver or owner of the vehicle of the name and address of the driver and owner of the vehicle striking the unattended vehicle, shall report the same to a police officer, or shall leave in a conspicuous place in the vehicle struck a written notice giving the name and address of the driver and of the owner of the vehicle doing the striking.

**Subd. 5. Notify owner of damaged property.** The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting only in damage to fixtures legally upon or adjacent to a highway shall take reasonable steps to locate and notify the owner or person in charge of such property of such fact and of his name and address and of the registration number of the vehicle he is driving and shall, upon request and if available, exhibit his driver's or chauffeur's license, and make report of such accident when and as required by the provisions of this chapter.

**Subd. 6. Notify police of personal injury.** The driver of a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person shall, after compliance with the provisions of this section, by the quickest means of communication, give notice of such accident to the local police department, if the accident occurs within a municipality, or to a state highway patrol officer if the accident occurs on a trunk highway, or to the office of the sheriff of the county.

**Subd. 7. Accident report to commissioner.** The driver of a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person or total property damage to an apparent extent of \$50 or more, shall promptly forward a written report of the accident to the commissioner. If, in the opinion of the commissioner, the original report of any driver of a vehicle involved in an accident of which report must be made as provided in this section is insufficient he may require the driver to file supplementary reports.

**Subd. 8. Officers to report accident to the commissioner.** Every law enforcement officer who, in the regular course of duty, investigates a motor vehicle accident of which report must be made as required in this section, either at the time of and at the scene of the accident or thereafter by interviewing participants or witnesses, shall, within 24 hours after completing such investigation, forward a written report of such accident to the commissioner.

**Subd. 9. Accident report forms.** The department shall prepare, and upon request supply to police departments, coroners, sheriffs, garages and other suitable agencies or individuals, forms for accident reports required hereunder, appropriate with respect to the persons required to make such reports and the purposes to be served. The written reports to be made by persons involved in accidents and by investigating officers shall call for sufficiently detailed information to disclose with reference to a traffic accident the causes, conditions then existing, and the persons and vehicles involved.

**Subd. 10. Use of form required.** Every accident report required to be made in writing shall be made on the appropriate form approved by the department and contain all of the information required therein unless not available.

**Subd. 11. Coroner to report death.** Every coroner or other official performing like functions shall report in writing to the department the death of any person within his jurisdiction as the result of an accident involving a motor vehicle and the circumstances of such accident. Such report shall be made within five days after such death.

**Subd. 12. Garages to report.** The person in charge of any garage or repair shop to which is brought any motor vehicle which shows evidence of having been struck by any bullet shall immediately report to the local police or sheriff and to the commissioner within 24 hours after such motor vehicle is received, giving the engine number, registration number and the name and address of the owner or operator of such vehicle.

**Subd. 13. Reports confidential.** All required accident reports and supplemental reports shall be without prejudice to the individual so reporting and shall be for the confidential use of the department for accident prevention purposes, except that the department or any law enforcement department of any municipality or county in this state shall, upon written request of any person involved in an accident or upon written request of the representative of his estate, disclose to such person, the representative of his estate, or legal counsel any information contained therein except the parties' version of the accident as set out in the written report filed by such parties. No such report shall be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident, except that the department shall furnish

upon the demand of any person who has, or claims to have, made such a report, or, upon demand of any court, a certificate showing that a specified accident report has or has not been made to the department solely to prove a compliance or a failure to comply with the requirements that such report be made to the department. Disclosing any information contained in any accident report, except as provided herein, is unlawful and a misdemeanor.

Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any person who has made a report pursuant to this chapter from testifying in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident, as to facts within his knowledge. It is intended by this subdivision to render privileged the reports required but it is not intended to prohibit proof of the facts to which such reports relate. Legally qualified newspaper publications shall upon request to a law enforcement agency be given an oral statement covering only the time and place of the accident, the names and addresses of the parties involved, and a general statement as to how the accident happened without attempting to fix liability upon anyone, but said legally qualified newspaper publications shall not be given access to the hereinbefore mentioned confidential reports, nor shall any such statements or information so orally given be used as evidence in any court proceeding, but shall merely be used for the purpose of a proper publication of the news.

[1937 c 464 s 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23; 1939 c 430 s 2, 3; 1941 c 439; 1943 c 548 s 1; 1945 c 207 s 1; 1947 c 428 s 7, 8, 9, 10; 1947 c 114 s 1; 1959 c 679 s 1] (2720-168, 2720-169, 2720-170, 2720-171, 2720-172, 2720-173)

**169.10 STATISTICAL INFORMATION.** The department shall tabulate and may analyze all accident reports and shall publish annually or at more frequent intervals statistical information based thereon as to the number and circumstances of traffic accidents.

[1937 c 464 s 24] (2720-174)

**169.11 CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE.** Any person who by operating or driving a vehicle of any kind in a reckless or grossly negligent manner causes a human being to be killed, under circumstances not constituting murder in the first, second, or third degree, or manslaughter in the first or second degree, is guilty of criminal negligence in the operation of a vehicle resulting in death.

A person convicted of a crime defined herein shall be punished by imprisonment in a state penal institution for a term not exceeding five years, or in the workhouse or county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by both a fine and imprisonment in a state penal institution or a fine and imprisonment in the workhouse or county jail.

The commissioner shall revoke the driver's license, and the secretary of state shall revoke the chauffeur's license, of any person convicted of the crime of criminal negligence in the operation of a vehicle resulting in the death of a human being.

[1937 c 464 s 25] (2720-175)

**169.12** [Repealed, 1957 c 297 s 2]

**169.121 MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS UNDER INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.** Subdivision 1. It shall be unlawful and punishable as provided in this section for any of the following persons to drive, operate or be in actual physical control of any vehicle within this state:

(a) A person who is under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or narcotic drug;

(b) A person who is an habitual user of narcotic drugs;

(c) A person who is under the influence of a combination of any two or more of the elements named in subsections (a) and (b) hereof.

Subd. 2. Upon the trial of any prosecution arising out of acts alleged to have been committed by any person arrested for driving, operating, or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, the court may admit evidence of the amount of alcohol in the person's blood taken voluntarily or pursuant to section 169.123 within two hours of the time of the offense as shown by a medical or chemical analysis of his breath, blood, urine or saliva.

For the purposes of this subdivision:

(a) evidence that there was at the time 0.05 percent or less by weight of alcohol in the person's blood is prima facie evidence that such person was not under the influence of an alcoholic beverage;

(b) evidence that there was at the time more than 0.05 percent and less than

0.15 percent by weight of alcohol in the person's blood is relevant evidence but it is not to be given prima facie effect in indicating whether or not the person was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage;

(c) evidence that there was at the time 0.15 percent or more by weight of alcohol in the person's blood may be admitted as prima facie evidence that the person was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage.

The foregoing provisions shall not be construed as limiting the introduction of any other competent evidence bearing upon the question whether or not such person was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, but the refusal to permit the taking of specimens for such chemical analysis shall not be admissible in evidence. In the event of a breath, saliva or urine test, the percentages above shall be increased by 20 percent.

For the purposes of this section, an "alcoholic beverage" means any liquid containing more than one-half of one percent of alcohol by volume.

Subd. 3. Every person who is convicted of a violation of this section shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than ten days nor more than 90 days, or by a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$100, and his driver's license shall be revoked for not less than 30 days, except that every person who is convicted of a violation of this section, when such violation is found to be the proximate cause of grievous bodily injury or death to another person, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days, and his driver's license shall be revoked for not less than 90 days.

Subd. 4. Every person who is convicted of a violation of this section within three years of any previous conviction under this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than ten days nor more than 90 days, and his driver's license shall be revoked for not less than 90 days.

Subd. 5. Whenever a person is charged with a violation of this section within three years of a previous conviction hereunder, and he shall forfeit his bail, it shall be the duty of the prosecuting officer to immediately apply to the court for a bench warrant, and thereupon the court shall forthwith issue a warrant for the arrest of the accused.

[1957 c 297 s 1; 1961 c 454 s 9]

**169.122 OPEN BOTTLE LAW; PENALTY.** Subdivision 1. No person shall drink or consume intoxicating liquors or nonintoxicating malt liquors in any motor vehicle when such vehicle is upon a public highway.

Subd. 2. No person shall have in his possession on his person while in a private motor vehicle upon a public highway, any bottle or receptacle containing intoxicating liquor or nonintoxicating malt liquor which has been opened, or the seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed.

Subd. 3. It shall be unlawful for the owner of any private motor vehicle or the driver, if the owner be not then present in the motor vehicle, to keep or allow to be kept in a motor vehicle when such vehicle is upon the public highway any bottle or receptacle containing intoxicating liquors or nonintoxicating malt liquors which has been opened, or the seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed except when such bottle or receptacle shall be kept in the trunk of the motor vehicle when such vehicle is equipped with a trunk, or kept in some other area of the vehicle not normally occupied by the driver or passengers, if the motor vehicle is not equipped with a trunk. A utility compartment or glove compartment shall be deemed to be within the area occupied by the driver and passengers.

Subd. 4. Whoever violates the provisions of subdivisions 1 to 3 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

[1959 c 255 s 1-4]

**169.123 CHEMICAL TESTS FOR INTOXICATION.** Subdivision 1. **Peace officer defined.** For purposes of Laws 1961, Chapter 454, the term peace officer means a state highway patrol officer or full-time police officer of any municipality having satisfactorily completed a prescribed course of instruction in a school for instruction of persons in law enforcement conducted by the university of Minnesota or a similar course considered equivalent by the commissioner of highways.

Subd. 2. **Implied consent; conditions; election as to type of test.** Any person who drives or operates a motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state shall be deemed to have given consent subject to the provisions of Laws 1961, Chapter 454, to a chemical test of his blood, breath, saliva or urine for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content of his blood. The test shall be adminis-

tered at the direction of a peace officer, when (1) the officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a person was driving or operating a motor vehicle while said person was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, and (2) the said person has been lawfully placed under arrest for alleged commission of the said described offense in violation of Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.121. No action shall be taken hereunder against the said person unless the two enumerated conditions existed at the time the officer requested the chemical test specimen. Any person may elect to take a breath, saliva or urine test in lieu of a direct blood test; and no action shall be taken for declining a test unless either a breath, saliva, or urine test was available. At the time the peace officer requests such chemical test specimen, he shall inform the said person that his right to drive may be revoked or denied if he refuses to permit the test and that he has the right to have additional tests made by a person of his own choosing.

**Subd. 3. Manner of making test; additional tests.** Only a physician, or a medical technician, or registered nurse acting at the request of a peace officer may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content therein. This limitation shall not apply to the taking of a breath, saliva or urine specimen. The person tested shall have the right to a physician, or a medical technician, or registered nurse of his own choosing administer a chemical test or tests in addition to any administered at the direction of a peace officer; provided, that the additional test specimen on behalf of said person be obtained at the place where such person is in custody and at no expense to the state. Said person shall have the right to immediately communicate with his attorney, doctor or any other person in order to secure a physician, medical technician or registered nurse, for the purpose of administering such additional test or tests; but this shall in no way delay the administering of the test at the direction of the peace officer. The failure or inability to obtain an additional test or tests by a person shall not preclude the admission in evidence of the test taken at the direction of a peace officer unless the additional test was prevented or denied by the peace officer. Upon the request of the person who is tested, full information concerning the test or tests taken at the direction of the peace officer shall be made available to him. The physician, medical technician or registered nurse drawing blood at the request of a peace officer for the purpose of determining alcoholic content shall in no manner be liable in any civil or criminal action except for negligence in drawing the blood. The person administering such test at the request and direction of such peace officer shall be fully trained in the administration and interpretation of such tests pursuant to standards promulgated by rule by the commissioner of highways.

**Subd. 4. Refusal to permit test; revocation of license.** If a person under arrest refuses to permit chemical testing, none shall be given, but the commissioner of highways, upon the receipt of a certificate of the peace officer that he had reasonable and probable grounds to believe the arrested person had been driving or operating a motor vehicle upon the public highways while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, and that the person had refused to permit the test, shall revoke his license or permit to drive and any nonresident operating privilege for a period of six months. If the person is a resident without a license or permit to operate a motor vehicle in this state, the commissioner of highways shall deny to the person the issuance of a license or permit for a period of six months after the date of the alleged violation, subject to review as hereinafter provided.

**Subd. 5. Notice of revocation; request for hearing.** No revocation under subdivision 4 shall be made until the commissioner notifies the person by certified or registered mail of the intention to revoke and allows said person a 20 day period after the date of receiving said notice to request in writing a hearing before the commissioner as herein provided. If no request is filed within the 20 day period the commissioner may then issue an order of revocation. However if a request for hearing is filed, no revocation hereunder shall be made until final judicial determination resulting in an adverse decision to said person. Nothing hereunder shall affect the right to suspend or revoke authorized under other provisions of law. In the case of a resident without a license or permit to operate a motor vehicle who becomes subject to denial of a license or permit under subdivision 4, the commissioner shall give notice under this subdivision and the driver shall have the same right to request a review within a 20 day period. Further procedure shall be the same as in case of revocation, except that the denial shall continue in effect for the six month period after the date of the alleged violation or until the date

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of a determination before the commissioner or in district court in favor of said driver.

**Subd. 6. Hearing.** The hearing shall be before a municipal judge, or probate judge if no municipal judge is available, learned in the law, in the county of the residence of the person arrested, unless there is agreement that the hearing may be held in some other county. The hearing shall be recorded and proceed as in a criminal matter, without the right of trial by jury, and its scope shall cover the issues of whether the peace officer had reasonable and probable grounds to believe the person was driving or operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage; whether the person was lawfully placed under arrest; whether he refused to permit the test, and if he refused whether he had reasonable grounds for refusing to permit the test; and whether at the time of request for the test the peace officer informed the said person that his right to drive might be revoked or denied if he refused to permit the test and of his right to have additional tests made by a person of his own choosing. The municipal court shall order either that the revocation or denial be rescinded or sustained and refer such order to the commissioner of highways for his further action.

**Subd. 7. Review by district court.** If the revocation or denial is sustained, the person whose license or permit to drive, or nonresident operating privilege has been revoked or denied, may within 20 days after notice of the determination by the commissioner of highways file a petition for a hearing of the matter in the district court in the county of the defendant's residence. The petition shall be filed with the clerk of the said court together with proof of service of a copy thereof on the commissioner. It shall be the duty of the court to set the matter for hearing on a day certain with reasonable notice thereof to the parties. The matter shall be heard de novo with a right of trial by jury.

**Subd. 8. Venue; notice of action to other states.** In the event of a request for a hearing by a nonresident of the state of Minnesota as provided by subdivision 6, or an appeal by a nonresident of the state of Minnesota as provided by subdivision 7, such hearing or appeal shall be heard in the county where the offense occurred. When it has been finally determined that a nonresident's privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state has been revoked or denied, the commissioner of highways shall give information in writing of the action taken to the official in charge of traffic control or public safety of the state of the person's residence and of any state in which he has a license.

[1961 c 454 s 1-8]

**169.13 RECKLESS OR CARELESS DRIVING.** Subdivision 1. Any person who drives any vehicle in such a manner as to indicate either a wilful or a wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of reckless driving and such reckless driving is a misdemeanor.

**Subd. 2.** Any person convicted of reckless driving shall be punished upon a first conviction by imprisonment for not less than ten days or by a fine of not less than \$10 and, upon a second or subsequent conviction, by imprisonment for not less than 30 days or by a fine of not less than \$25.

**Subd. 3.** No person shall operate or halt any vehicle upon any street or highway carelessly or heedlessly in disregard of the rights or the safety of others, or in a manner so as to endanger, or be likely to endanger, any person or property.

[1937 c 464 s 27; 1939 c 430 s 5; 1947 c 428 s 11] (2720-177)

**169.131 MINOR UNDER 17 NOT TO DRIVE MOTOR VEHICLE BETWEEN CERTAIN HOURS.** Any juvenile under the age of 17 is prohibited from driving a motor vehicle upon any public highway between the hours of 12:00 Midnight and 5:00 A.M., unless accompanied by an adult or in the case of an emergency.

[1957 c 542 s 1]

**169.132 VIOLATIONS.** Every juvenile who violates section 169.131 shall have his driver's license suspended for 30 days. Upon a second violation he shall have his driver's license suspended for 60 days. Upon a subsequent violation of section 169.131, such juvenile shall have his driver's license revoked until he reaches the age of 17. After his 17th birthday, such juvenile may again apply for a driver's license.

[1957 c 542 s 2]

**169.14 SPEED RESTRICTIONS.** Subdivision 1. **Basic rule.** No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing.

In every event speed shall be so restricted as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care.

**Subd. 2. Speed limits.** Where no special hazard exists the following speeds shall be lawful, but any speeds in excess of such limits shall be prima facie evidence that the speed is not reasonable or prudent and that it is unlawful; except that the speed limit within any municipality shall be an absolute speed limit and any speed in excess thereof shall be unlawful:

- (1) 30 miles per hour in any municipality;
- (2) 60 miles per hour in other locations during the daytime;
- (3) 50 miles per hour in such other locations during the nighttime.

"Daytime" means from a half hour before sunrise to a half hour after sunset, except at any time when due to weather or other conditions there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles at a distance of 500 feet.

"Nighttime" means at any other hour or at any time when due to weather or other conditions there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles at a distance of 500 feet.

**Subd. 3. Reduced speed required.** The driver of any vehicle shall, consistent with the requirements, drive at an appropriate reduced speed when approaching and crossing an intersection or railway grade crossing, when approaching and going around a curve, when approaching a hill crest, when traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway, and when special hazards exist with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.

**Subd. 4. Speed zoning, trunk highways.** When the commissioner determines upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that any speed set forth in this section is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist on any trunk highway or upon any part thereof, he may erect appropriate signs designating a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat, which speed limit shall be effective when such signs are erected. Any speeds in excess of such limits shall be prima facie evidence that the speed is not reasonable or prudent and that it is unlawful; except that any speed limit within any municipality shall be an absolute speed limit and any speed in excess thereof shall be unlawful. Whenever the commissioner determines upon that basis that a part of the trunk highway system outside a municipality should be a zone of absolute speed limit he may establish that part as such a zone by erecting appropriate signs showing the beginning and end of the zone, designating a reasonable and safe speed therefor, which may be different than the speed set forth in this section, and that it is a zone of absolute speed limit. The speed so designated by him within any such zone shall be an absolute speed limit, and speed in excess of such limit shall be unlawful. He may in the same manner from time to time alter the boundary of such a zone and the speed limit therein or eliminate such zone.

**Subd. 5. Speed zoning not on trunk highways.** When local authorities believe that the existing speed limit upon any street or highway, or part thereof, within their respective jurisdictions and not a part of the trunk highway system is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under existing conditions, they may request the commissioner to authorize, upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, the erection of appropriate signs designating what speed is reasonable and safe, and the commissioner may authorize the erection of appropriate signs designating a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat, which speed limit shall be effective when such signs are erected. Any speeds in excess of these speed limits shall be prima facie evidence that the speed is not reasonable or prudent and that it is unlawful; except that any speed limit within any municipality shall be an absolute speed limit and any speed in excess thereof shall be unlawful. Alteration of speed limits on streets and highways shall be made only upon authority of the commissioner.

**Subd. 6. Summons to specify speed.** In every charge of violation of any speed regulation in this chapter the complaint, also the summons or notice to appear, shall specify the speed at which the defendant is alleged to have driven, also the speed limit applicable within the district or at the location.

**Subd. 7. Burden of proof.** The provisions of this chapter declaring speed limitation shall not be construed to relieve the plaintiff in any civil action from the burden of proving negligence on the part of the defendant as the proximate cause of an accident.

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**Subd. 8. Minimum speeds.** Where the commissioner determines upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that a particular portion of the state trunk highway system is so constructed and that the traffic using such portion of the highway system should move at a speed in excess of a certain determined minimum he shall issue his order making such determination. The order shall specify the particular portion of highway affected, the minimum speed permissible and a determination by the commissioner that the minimum speed prescribed is reasonable and necessary to the safe use of the portion of the highway affected. Upon the issuance of such order, the commissioner shall cause such portion of highway to be appropriately posted with reasonable and adequate signs sufficient to inform the traveler of the nature of the minimum and maximum permissible speeds and the zone boundaries established by the order. Upon such posting it shall be unlawful to travel upon such portion of the highway at a speed less than the established minimum.

[1937 c 464 s 28; 1939 c 430 s 6; 1947 c 428 s 12, 13; 1955 c 802 s 1, 2; 1957 c 580 s 1] (2720-178)

**169.15 IMPEDING TRAFFIC.** No person shall drive a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

Police officers are hereby authorized to enforce this provision by directions to drivers, and, in the event of apparent wilful disobedience of this provision and refusal to comply with direction of an officer in accordance herewith, the continued slow operation by a driver shall be a misdemeanor.

[1937 c 464 s 29] (2720-179)

**169.16 SPEED ON BRIDGES.** No person shall drive a vehicle over any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway at a speed which is greater than the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to such bridge or structure, when such structure is sign-posted as provided in this section.

The commissioner, upon request from any local authority, shall, or, upon his own initiative, may, conduct an investigation of any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway, and if he shall thereupon find that such structure cannot with safety to itself withstand vehicles traveling at the speed otherwise permissible under this chapter, the commissioner shall determine and declare the maximum speed of vehicles which such structure can withstand and cause or permit suitable signs stating such maximum speed to be erected and maintained at a distance of 100 feet before each end of such structure.

Upon the trial of any person charged with a violation of this section, proof of the determination of the maximum speed by the commissioner and the existence of the signs shall constitute conclusive evidence of the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to such bridge or structure.

[1937 c 464 s 30] (2720-180)

**169.17 EMERGENCY VEHICLES.** The speed limitations set forth in sections 169.14 to 169.17 do not apply to authorized emergency vehicles when responding to emergency calls, but the drivers thereof shall sound audible signal by siren and display at least one lighted red light to the front. This provision does not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of persons using the street, nor does it protect the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the consequence of a reckless disregard of the safety of others.

[1937 c 464 s 31; 1947 c 428 s 14] (2720-181)

**169.18 DRIVING RULES.** Subdivision 1. **Keep to the right.** Upon all roadways of sufficient width a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:

(1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing such movement;

(2) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair;

(3) Upon a roadway divided into three marked lanes for traffic under the rules applicable thereon; or

(4) Upon a roadway designated and sign-posted for one-way traffic as a one-way roadway.

Subd. 2. **Meeting.** Drivers of vehicles proceeding in opposite directions, shall pass each other to the right, and upon roadways having width for not more than one line of traffic in each direction each driver shall give to the other at least one-half of the main traveled portion of the roadway, as nearly as possible.

Subd. 3. **Passing.** The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to the limitations, exceptions, and special rules hereinafter stated:

(1) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle;

(2) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible warning, and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle;

Subd. 4. **Passing on right.** The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle only upon the following conditions:

(a) When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn;

(b) Upon a street or highway with unobstructed pavement not occupied by parked vehicles of sufficient width for two or more lines of moving vehicles in each direction;

(c) Upon a one-way street, or upon any roadway on which traffic is restricted to one direction of movement, where the roadway is free from obstructions and of sufficient width for two or more lines of moving vehicles;

(d) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. In no event shall such movement be made by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway.

Subd. 5. **Driving left of roadway center.** (a) No vehicle shall be driven to the left side of the center of the roadway in overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless such left side is clearly visible and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit such overtaking and passing to be completely made without interfering with the safe operation of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or any vehicle overtaken. In every event the overtaking vehicle must return to the right-hand side of the roadway before coming within 100 feet of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction;

(b) Except on a one-way roadway, no vehicle shall, in overtaking and passing another vehicle or at any other time, be driven to the left half of the roadway under the following conditions:

(1) When approaching the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway where the driver's view along the highway is obstructed within a distance of 700 feet;

(2) When approaching within 100 feet of any underpass or tunnel, or when approaching within 100 feet of or traversing any intersection or railroad grade crossing;

(3) Where official signs are in place prohibiting passing, or a distinctive center line is marked, which distinctive line also so prohibits passing, as declared in the manual of traffic-control devices adopted by the commissioner.

Subd. 6. **One-way traffic.** (a) Upon a roadway designated and sign-posted for one-way traffic as a one-way roadway, a vehicle shall be driven only in the direction designated;

(b) A vehicle passing around a rotary traffic island shall be driven only to the right of such island.

Subd. 7. **Laned highways.** When any roadway has been divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic, the following rules, in addition to all others consistent herewith, shall apply:

(a) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from such lane until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can be made with safety;

(b) Upon a roadway which is not a one-way roadway and which is divided into three lanes, a vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle where the roadway is clearly visible and such center lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance, or in preparation for a left turn or where such center lane is at the time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the direction



the vehicle is proceeding, and is signposted to give notice of such allocation. The left lane of a three-lane roadway which is not a one-way roadway shall not be used for overtaking and passing another vehicle;

(c) Official signs may be erected directing slow-moving traffic to use a designated lane or allocating specified lanes to traffic moving in the same direction, and drivers of vehicles shall obey the directions of every such sign.

Subd. 8. **Following vehicle too closely.** (a) The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the traffic upon and the conditions of the highway.

(b) The driver of any motor vehicle drawing another vehicle, or the driver of any motor truck, when traveling upon a roadway outside of a business or residence district, shall not follow within 500 feet of another vehicle. The provisions of this clause shall not be construed to prevent overtaking and passing nor shall the same apply upon any lane specially designated for use by motor trucks.

Subd. 9. **Divided highways; crossovers.** Whenever any highway has been divided into two roadways by leaving an intervening space or by a physical barrier or clearly indicated dividing section so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic, or by a double center line, every vehicle shall be driven only upon the right-hand roadway and no vehicle shall be driven over, across, or within any such dividing space, barrier section, or double center line, except through an opening in such physical barrier, or dividing section or space or at a crossover or intersection established by public authority.

Subd. 10. **Slow moving vehicles.** Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway, or when a specific lane is designated and posted for a specific type of traffic.

[1937 c 464 s 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39; 1939 c 430 s 7; 1947 c 428 s 15; 1951 c 363 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 2] (2720-182, 2720-183, 2720-184, 2720-185, 2720-186, 2720-187, 2720-188, 2720-189)

**169.19 TURNING AND STARTING.** Subdivision 1. **Turning at intersection.** The driver of a vehicle intending to turn at an intersection shall do so as follows:

(1) Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway;

(2) Approach for a left turn on other than one-way roadways shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof, and after entering the intersection the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection to the right of the center line of the roadway being entered. Whenever practicable the left turn shall be made in that portion of the intersection to the left of the center of the intersection;

(3) Approach for a left turn from a two-way roadway into a one-way roadway shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by passing to the right of such center line where it enters the intersection;

(4) A left turn from a one-way roadway into a two-way roadway shall be made from the left hand lane and by passing to the right of the center line of the roadway being entered upon leaving the intersection;

(5) Where both streets or roadways are one way, both the approach for a left turn and a left turn shall be made as close as practicable to the left-hand curb or edge of the roadway;

(6) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may cause markers, buttons, or signs to be placed within or adjacent to intersections and thereby require and direct that a different course from that specified in this section be traveled by vehicles turning at an intersection, and when markers, buttons, or signs are so placed no driver of a vehicle shall turn a vehicle at an intersection other than as directed and required by such markers, buttons, or signs.

Subd. 2. **U-turns.** No vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any curve, or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade, where such vehicle cannot be seen by the driver of any other vehicle approaching from either direction within 1,000 feet.

Subd. 3. **Starting parked car.** No person shall start a vehicle which is stopped, standing, or parked unless and until such movement can be made with reasonable safety.

Subd. 4. **Change of course.** No person shall turn a vehicle at an intersection unless the vehicle is in proper position upon the roadway as required in this section, or turn a vehicle to enter a private road or driveway or otherwise turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left upon a highway unless and until the movement can be made with reasonable safety, and then only after giving a clearly audible warning by sounding the horn if any pedestrian may be affected by the movement or after giving an appropriate signal in the manner hereinafter provided in the event any other vehicle may be affected by the movement.

Subd. 5. **Signal to turn.** A signal of intention to turn right or left shall be given continuously during not less than the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning.

Subd. 6. **Signal to stop.** No person shall stop or suddenly decrease the speed of a vehicle without first giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided herein to the driver of any vehicle immediately to the rear unless there is a good and sufficient reason for not being able to do so.

Subd. 7. **Signaling methods.** The signals herein required shall be given either by means of the hand and arm or by a signal lamp or signal device of a type approved by the commissioner, but when a vehicle is so constructed or loaded that a hand and arm signal would not be visible in normal sunlight, and at night both to the front and rear of such vehicle, then the signals must be given by such a lamp or device.

Subd. 8. **Hand signals.** When the signal is given by means of the hand and arm the driver shall indicate his intention to start, stop, or turn by extending the hand and arm from and beyond the left side of the vehicle in the following manner and these signals shall indicate as follows:

- (1) Left turn.—Hand and arm extended horizontally.
- (2) Right turn.—Hand and arm extended upward.
- (3) Stop or decrease speed.—Hand and arm extended downward.

[1937 c 464 s 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45; 1939 c 430 s 8; 1947 c 428 s 16; 1959 c 521 s 3] (2720-190, 2720-191, 2720-192, 2720-193, 2720-194, 2720-195)

**169.20 RIGHT OF WAY.** Subdivision 1. **Approaching uncontrolled intersection.** When two vehicles enter an uncontrolled intersection from different highways at approximately the same time the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right.

The driver of any vehicle traveling at an unlawful speed shall forfeit any right of way which he might otherwise have hereunder.

The foregoing rules are modified at through highways, and otherwise as hereinafter stated in this section.

Subd. 2. **At intersection.** The driver of a vehicle within an intersection intending to turn to the left shall yield the right of way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction which is within the intersection or so close thereto as to constitute an immediate hazard, but the driver, having so yielded and having given a signal when and as required by this chapter, may make such left turn, and the drivers of all other vehicles approaching the intersection from the opposite direction shall yield the right of way to the vehicle making the left turn.

— Subd. 3. **Through highway; stop sign.** The driver of a vehicle shall stop as required by this chapter at the entrance to a through highway and shall yield the right of way to other vehicles which have entered the intersection from the through highway or which are approaching so closely on the through highway as to constitute an immediate hazard, but the driver having so yielded may proceed, and the drivers of all other vehicles approaching the intersection on the through highway shall yield the right of way to the vehicles so proceeding into or across the through highway.

The driver of a vehicle shall likewise stop in obedience to a stop sign, as required herein, at an intersection where a stop sign is erected at one or more entrances thereto although not a part of a through highway, and shall proceed cautiously, yielding to vehicles not so obliged to stop which are within the intersection or approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard, but may then proceed.

Subd. 4. **Entering highway from private driveway.** The driver of a vehicle entering or crossing a highway from a private road or driveway shall yield the right

of way to all vehicles approaching on such highway.

**Subd. 5. Emergency vehicle.** Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle equipped with at least one lighted lamp exhibiting red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle and when the driver is giving audible signal by siren, the driver of each other vehicle shall yield the right of way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to and as close as possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the highway clear of any intersection, and shall stop and remain in this position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

Upon the approach of an authorized emergency vehicle the motorman of each street car and the operator of each trackless trolley car shall immediately stop such car clear of any intersection and keep it in this position and keep the doors and gates of the street car or trackless trolley car closed until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

This subdivision shall not operate to relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of persons using the highways.

**Subd. 6. Funeral procession.** When any funeral procession identifies itself by using regular lights on all cars and by keeping all cars in close formation, the driver of every other vehicle, except an emergency vehicle, shall yield the right of way.

[1937 c 464 s 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51; 1939 c 430 s 9; 1947 c 428 s 17; 1955 c 595 s 1] (2720-196, 2720-197, 2720-198, 2720-199, 2720-200, 2720-201)

**169.201 YIELD SIGN.** The driver of a vehicle approaching a YIELD sign shall slow to a speed that is reasonable for conditions of traffic and visibility, and stop if necessary, and yield the right of way to any pedestrian legally crossing the roadway on which he is driving, and to all vehicles on the intersecting street or highway which are so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

[1955 c 606 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 4; 1961 c 65 s 1]

**169.21 PEDESTRIANS.** Subdivision 1. **Obey traffic-control signals.** Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic-control signals at intersections as heretofore declared in this chapter, but at all other places pedestrians shall be accorded the privileges and shall be subject to the restrictions stated in sections 169.21 and 169.22.

**Subd. 2. Rights in absence of signals.** Where traffic-control signals are not in place or in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger, but no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. This provision shall not apply under the conditions as otherwise provided in this subdivision.

When any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

It is unlawful for any person to drive a motor vehicle through a column of school children crossing a street or highway or past a member of a school safety patrol, while the member of the school safety patrol is directing the movement of children across a street or highway and while the school safety patrol member is holding his official signal in the stop position.

**Subd. 3. Crossing between intersections.** Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

Between adjacent intersections at which traffic-control signals are in operation pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this section every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway and give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and exercise proper precaution upon observing any child or any confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway.

**Subd. 4. Use right half of crosswalks.** Pedestrians shall move when practicable upon the right half of crosswalks.

**Subd. 5. Walk on left side of roadway.** Pedestrians when walking along a roadway shall walk near the left side of the roadway giving way to oncoming traffic. Where sidewalks are provided and usable it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.

[1937 c 464 s 52, 53, 54, 55, 57; 1939 c 430 s 10; 1947 c 428 s 18] (2720-202, 2720-203, 2720-204, 2720-205, 2720-207)

NOTE: Blind persons, right of way, see section 614.66.

**169.22 HITCHHIKING.** No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any private vehicle.

[1937 c 464 s 56] (2720-206)

**169.221 BICYCLES.** Subdivision 1. **Traffic laws apply.** Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter, except as to special regulations in this chapter and except as to those provisions of this chapter which by their nature can have no application.

**Subd. 2. Manner and number riding.** (a) A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.

(b) No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

**Subd. 3. Hitching rides.** No person riding upon any bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled, or toy vehicle shall attach the same or himself to any street car or vehicle upon a roadway.

**Subd. 4. Where to ride.** (a) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(b) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

(c) Whenever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway.

(d) No person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk within a business district.

Whenever any person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk, such person shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.

**Subd. 5. Carrying articles.** No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars.

**Subd. 6. Lighting and brake equipment.** (a) Every bicycle when in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear of a type approved by the department which is visible from all distances from 50 feet to 300 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.

(b) Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

**Subd. 7. Sale with reflectors.** On or after July 1, 1959, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale any new bicycle unless it is equipped with such reflectors as are prescribed by subdivision 6.

[1947 c 428 s 20; 1959 c 215 s 2]

**169.23 PASSING STREET CAR ON LEFT.** The driver of a vehicle shall not overtake and pass upon the left nor drive upon the left side of any street car proceeding in the same direction, whether such street car is actually in motion or tem-

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porarily at rest, except:

- (1) When so directed by a police officer;
- (2) When upon a one-way street; or
- (3) When upon a street where the tracks are so located as to prevent compliance with this section.

The driver of any vehicle when permitted to overtake and pass upon the left of a street car which has stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any passenger shall reduce speed and may proceed only upon exercising due caution for pedestrians and shall accord pedestrians the right of way when required by other sections of this chapter.

[1937 c 464 s 58] (2720-208)

169.24 [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]

169.25 **SAFETY ZONE.** No vehicle shall at any time be driven through a safety zone.

[1937 c 464 s 60] (2720-210)

169.26 **SPECIAL STOPS AT RAILROADS.** When any person driving a vehicle approaches a railroad grade crossing and a clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device gives warning of the immediate approach of a train, the driver of such vehicle shall stop not less than ten feet from the nearest track of such railroad and shall not proceed until he can do so safely.

The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain standing and not traverse such a grade crossing when the crossing gate is lowered or when a human flagman gives or continues to give a signal of the approach or passage of a train.

[1937 c 464 s 61] (2720-211)

169.27 **RAILROAD STOP-CROSSINGS.** The railroad and warehouse commission is hereby authorized to designate particularly dangerous highway grade crossings of railroads and to order stop signs thereat. When such stop signs are erected the driver of any vehicle shall stop within 50 feet, but not less than ten feet, from the nearest track of such grade crossing, and shall proceed only upon exercising due care.

[1937 c 464 s 62] (2720-212)

NOTE: See also Sections 219.20 and 219.22.

169.28 **CERTAIN VEHICLES TO STOP AT RAILROADS.** The driver of any motor vehicle carrying passengers for hire, or of any school bus carrying any school child, or of any vehicle carrying explosive substances or flammable liquids, or liquid gas under pressure as a cargo or part of a cargo, before crossing at grade any track or tracks of a railroad, shall stop such vehicle not less than ten feet from the nearest rail of such railroad and while so stopped shall listen and look in both directions along such track for any approaching train, and for signals indicating the approach of a train, except as hereinafter provided, and shall not proceed until he can do so safely.

No stop need be made at any such crossing where a police officer or a traffic-control signal directs traffic to proceed.

This section shall not apply at street railway grade crossings within a business or residence district.

[1937 c 464 s 63; Ex1937 c 38 s 1; 1961 c 29 s 1] (2720-213)

NOTE: See also Section 219.21.

169.29 **CROSSING RAILROAD TRACKS WITH CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.** No person shall operate or move any caterpillar tractor, steam shovel, derrick, roller, or any equipment or structure having a normal operating speed of six or less miles per hour or a vertical body or load clearance of less than nine inches above the level surface of a roadway upon or across any tracks at a railroad grade crossing without first complying with this section.

Before making any such crossing the person operating or moving any such vehicle or equipment shall first stop the same not less than ten, nor more than 50, feet from the nearest rail of such railway, and while so stopped shall listen and look in both directions along such track for any approaching train and for signals indicating the approach of a train, and shall not proceed until the crossing can be made safely.

No such crossing shall be made when warning is given by automatic signal or crossing gates or a flagman or otherwise of the immediate approach of a railroad train or car.

[1937 c 464 s 64] (2720-214)

NOTE: See also Section 219.21.

**169.30 DESIGNATION OF THROUGH HIGHWAYS.** The commissioner, with reference to state trunk highways, and local authorities, with reference to other highways under their jurisdiction, may designate through highways by erecting stop signs or yield signs at entrances thereto or may designate any intersection as a stop or yield intersection by erecting like signs at one or more entrances to such intersection; provided, that local authorities, with the consent of the commissioner, may designate through highway or stop or yield intersections on state trunk highways.

Every driver of a vehicle shall stop at a stop sign or at a clearly marked stop line before entering the intersection, except when directed to proceed by a police officer or traffic-control signal.

[1937 c 464 s 65; 1939 c 430 s 11; 1961 c 16 s 1] (2720-215)

**169.305 CONTROLLED ACCESS REGULATIONS AND PENALTIES.** Subdivision 1. (a) No person shall drive a vehicle onto or from any controlled access roadway except at such entrances and exits as are established by public authority.

(b) When special crossovers between the main roadways of a controlled access highway are provided for emergency vehicles or maintenance equipment and such crossovers are signed to prohibit "U" turns, it shall be unlawful for any vehicle, except an emergency vehicle or maintenance equipment, to use such crossover.

(c) The commissioner of highways may by order, and any public authority may by ordinance, with respect to any controlled access roadway under their jurisdictions prohibit the use of any such roadway by pedestrians, bicycles, or other nonmotorized traffic, or by any person operating any vehicle.

(d) The commissioner of highways or the public authority adopting any such prohibitory regulations shall erect and maintain official signs on the controlled access roadway on which such regulations are applicable and when so erected no person shall disobey the restrictions stated on such signs.

Subd. 2. Any person violating the provisions of subdivision 1 or any order or ordinance promulgated or enacted by the commissioner of highways or a public authority pursuant thereto is guilty of a misdemeanor.

[1959 c 439 s 1; 1961 c 72 s 1]

**169.31 STOP AT SIDEWALKS.** The driver of a vehicle within a business or residence district emerging from an alley, driveway, or building shall stop such vehicle immediately prior to driving onto a sidewalk or into the sidewalk area extending across any alleyway or private driveway.

[1937 c 464 s 66] (2720-216)

**169.32 STOPPING, STANDING, AND PARKING.** Upon any highway outside of a business or residence district no person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon the paved or improved or main traveled part of the highway when it is practical to stop, park, or so leave such vehicle off such part of said highway, but in every event a clear and unobstructed width of at least 20 feet of such part of the highway opposite such standing vehicle shall be left for the free passage of other vehicles and a clear view of such stopped vehicle be available from a distance of 200 feet in each direction upon such highway.

This section shall not apply to the driver of any vehicle which is disabled while on the paved or improved or main traveled portion of a highway in such a manner and to such extent that it is impossible to avoid stopping and temporarily leaving such disabled vehicle in such position.

[1937 c 464 s 67] (2720-217)

**169.33 POLICE MAY MOVE CARS.** When any police officer finds a vehicle standing upon a highway in violation of any of the provisions of section 169.32, such officer is hereby authorized to move such vehicle, or require the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle to move the same, to a position off the paved or improved or main traveled part of such highway.

When any police officer finds a vehicle unattended upon any street or highway or upon any bridge or causeway or in any tunnel where such vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic, such officer is hereby authorized to provide for the removal of such vehicle and remove the same to the nearest convenient garage or other place of safety.

[1937 c 464 s 68; 1939 c 430 s 12] (2720-218)

**169.34 PROHIBITIONS; STOPPING, PARKING.** No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in

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compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic-control device, in any of the following places:

- (1) On a sidewalk;
- (2) In front of a public or private driveway;
- (3) Within an intersection;
- (4) Within ten feet of a fire hydrant;
- (5) On a crosswalk;
- (6) Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
- (7) Within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing beacon, stop sign, or traffic-control signal located at the side of a roadway;
- (8) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within 30 feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone, unless a different length is indicated by signs or markings;
- (9) Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;
- (10) Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within 75 feet of said entrance when properly sign-posted;
- (11) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when such stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic;
- (12) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
- (13) Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel, except as otherwise provided by ordinance;
- (14) At any place where official signs prohibit stopping.

No person shall move a vehicle not owned by such person into any prohibited area or away from a curb such distance as is unlawful.

No person shall, for camping purposes, leave or park a house trailer on or within the limits of any highway or on any highway right of way, except where signs are erected designating the place as a camp site.

No person shall stop or park a vehicle on a street or highway when directed or ordered to proceed by any peace officer invested by law with authority to direct, control, or regulate traffic.

[1937 c 464 s 69; Ex1937 c 38 s 1; 1939 c 430 s 13] (2720-219)

**169.35 PARKING.** Subdivision 1. **Parallel to curb.** Except where angle parking is permitted by local ordinance, each vehicle stopped or parked upon a two-way roadway where there is an adjacent curb shall be so stopped or parked with the right-hand wheels of the vehicle parallel with and within 12 inches of the right-hand curb, provided, that such exception shall only apply to a state trunk highway after approval by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **Where no curb.** Upon streets and highways not having a curb each vehicle stopped or parked shall be stopped or parked parallel with and to the right of the paved or improved or main traveled part of the street or highway.

Subd. 3. **One-way roadway.** Local authorities with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction and with the consent of the commissioner with respect to state trunk highways may by ordinance permit parking of vehicles with the left hand wheels adjacent to and within 12 inches of the left hand curb of a one-way roadway.

[1937 c 464 s 70; Ex1937 c 38 s 1; 1939 c 430 s 14; 1947 c 428 s 21] (2720-220)

**169.36 BRAKES TO BE SET.** No person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit it to stand unattended without effectively setting the brake thereon and turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the highway.

[1937 c 464 s 71] (2720-221)

**169.37 OBSTRUCTING VIEW OF DRIVER.** No person shall drive a vehicle when it is so loaded, or when there are in the front seat such number of persons, exceeding three, as to obstruct the view of the driver to the front or sides of the vehicle or as to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

No passenger in a vehicle or street car shall ride in such position as to interfere with the driver's or motorman's view ahead or to the sides, or to interfere with his control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle or street car.

[1937 c 464 s 72] (2720-222)

**169.38 DRIVING IN ROUGH TERRAIN.** The driver of a motor vehicle traveling through defiles or canyons or on mountain highways shall hold such motor vehicle under control and as near the right-hand edge of the highway as reasonably

possible, and, upon approaching any curve where the view is obstructed within a distance of 200 feet along the highway, shall give audible warning with the horn of such motor vehicle.

[1937 c 464 s 73] (2720-223)

**169.39 COASTING.** The driver of any motor vehicle when traveling upon a down grade shall not coast with the gears of such vehicle in neutral.

The driver of a commercial motor vehicle when traveling upon a down grade shall not coast with the clutch disengaged.

[1937 c 464 s 74] (2720-224)

**169.40 FOLLOWING FIRE APPARATUS.** The driver of any vehicle other than one on official business shall not follow any fire apparatus traveling in response to a fire alarm closer than 500 feet, or drive into or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm.

[1937 c 464 s 75] (2720-225)

**169.41 CROSSING FIRE HOSE.** No street car or vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of a fire department when laid down on any street, private driveway, or street car track, to be used at any fire or alarm of fire, without the consent of the fire department official in command.

[1937 c 464 s 76] (2720-226)

**169.42 REFUSE UPON HIGHWAYS OR ADJACENT LANDS.** No person shall throw or deposit upon any highway any glass bottle, glass, nails, tacks, wire, cans, or any other substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle upon such highway or upon any public or privately owned land adjacent thereto without the owner's consent.

Any person who drops, or permits to be dropped or thrown, upon any highway any destructive or injurious material shall immediately remove the same or cause it to be removed.

Any person removing a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a highway shall remove any glass or other injurious substance dropped upon the highway from such vehicle.

[1937 c 464 s 77; 1951 c 663 s 1] (2720-227)

**169.43 SWINGING GATES.** No truck shall be operated on any highway with gate, loading rack, or partition carried in any manner on any part of the exterior of the truck, unless the top and bottom of such gate, loading rack or partition is securely attached to the truck, so as to prevent swinging or becoming loose—except that no such gate, loading rack or partition shall be carried on the left side of the truck.

No truck shall be driven or parked on any highway with tail-gate or tail-board hanging down or projecting from the vehicle except while such vehicle is being loaded or unloaded, and except when a load on the tail-board renders impossible the closing of the tail-board.

[1937 c 464 s 78, 79; 1947 c 428 s 22; 1949 c 263] (2720-228, 2720-229)

**169.44 SCHOOL BUSES; STOP SIGNALS; CONDUCT OF OTHER VEHICLES.**  
**Subdivision 1. Meeting or overtaking buses; stop signals; stopping.** The driver of a vehicle upon a street or highway, upon meeting or overtaking from front or rear any school bus which has stopped on the street or highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child or children, shall stop the vehicle immediately upon the extension of a stop signal arm and display of flashing red signals by the school bus driver and shall remain stopped until the school bus driver retracts the stop signal arm and extinguishes the flashing red signals. Every school bus shall be equipped with a stop signal arm and flashing red signals of a type, and actuated in a manner, approved by the state board of education and commissioner of highways, which shall be used only when the school bus is stopped on a street or highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child or children.

**Subd. 2. Loading and unloading passengers; use of signals.** The driver of a school bus shall not use or extend the stop signal arm and flashing red signals in the built-up areas of cities, villages or boroughs where passengers are to be loaded or unloaded from a curb or sidewalk or in special bus loading areas except that the stop signal arm and flashing red signals shall be used on streets which are not provided with curbs or sidewalks, or where the width of the roadway is so restricted, obstructed or in such condition that the school bus must stop on the



travel lane or lanes of the roadway.

Where school children must cross the road before boarding or after being discharged from the bus, the driver of a school bus or a school bus patrol may supervise such crossings making use of the standard school patrol flag or signal as approved and prescribed by the commissioner of highways.

**Subd. 3. Sign on bus.** This section shall be applicable only in the event the school bus shall bear upon the front and rear thereof a plainly visible sign containing the words "school bus" in letters not less than six inches in height, which can be removed or covered when the vehicle is not in use as a school bus.

**Subd. 4. Separated roadways.** Except as hereinafter provided, the driver of a vehicle upon a highway with separated roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus which is upon a different roadway. A separated roadway shall mean a road which is separated from a parallel road by a safety isle or safety zone.

[1937 c 464 s 80; 1939 c 430 s 15; 1947 c 428 s 23; 1953 c 326 s 1; 1961 c 48 s 1] (2720-230)

**169.45 SCHOOL BUSES.** The state board of education shall adopt and enforce regulations not inconsistent with this chapter to govern the design, color, and operation of school buses used for the transportation of school children, when owned and operated by a school district or privately owned and operated under a contract with a school district, and these regulations shall be made a part of any such contract by reference. Each school district, its officers and employees, and each person employed under such a contract is subject to these regulations.

[1937 c 464 s 81; 1947 c 428 s 24] (2720-231)

**169.46 HITCHING BEHIND VEHICLES.** No person shall hitch a toboggan, hand sled, bicycle, or other similar device onto any motor vehicle, street car or trackless trolley car while being used on a highway.

[1937 c 464 s 82] (2720-232)

**169.47 UNSAFE EQUIPMENT.** It is a misdemeanor for any person to drive or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven on any highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in such unsafe condition as to endanger any person, or which does not contain those parts or is not at all times equipped with such lamps and other equipment in proper condition and adjustment as required in this chapter, or which is equipped in any manner in violation of this chapter, or for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required under this chapter.

The provisions of this chapter with respect to equipment on vehicles shall not apply to implements of husbandry, road machinery, road rollers, or farm tractors, except as herein made applicable.

[1937 c 464 s 83; 1939 c 430 s 16] (2720-233)

**169.471 TELEVISION.** No television screen shall be installed or used in any motor vehicle at any point forward of the back of the driver's seat, or which is visible to the driver while operating the motor vehicle. A violation of any of the provisions of this section is a misdemeanor.

[1949 c 78 s 1, 2]

**169.48 VEHICLE LIGHTING.** Every vehicle upon a highway within this state, at any time from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise and at any other time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead, shall display lighted lamps and illuminating devices, as hereinafter, respectively, required for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles, as hereinafter stated.

When requirement is hereinafter declared as to the distance from which certain lamps and devices shall render objects visible or within which such lamps or devices shall be visible, these provisions shall apply during the time stated in this section upon a straight level unlighted highway under normal atmospheric conditions unless a different time or condition is expressly stated and unless otherwise specified the location of lamps and devices shall refer to the centers of such lamps or devices.

[1937 c 464 s 84] (2720-234)

**169.49 HEADLAMPS.** Every motor vehicle, other than a motor-cycle, shall be equipped with at least two head lamps, with at least one on each side of the front of the motor vehicle, which head lamps shall comply with the requirements and

limitations set forth in sections 169.47 to 169.79.

Every motor-cycle shall be equipped with at least one and not more than two head lamps, which shall comply with the requirements and limitations of sections 169.47 to 169.79.

[1937 c 464 s 85; 1957 c 754 s 1] (2720-235)

**169.50 REAR LAMPS.** Subdivision 1. **Requirements.** Every motor vehicle and every vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles shall be equipped with at least one tail lamp, exhibiting a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear. And further, every such above-mentioned vehicle, other than a truck-tractor, registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1960, shall be equipped with at least two tail lamps mounted on the rear, on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, which, when lighted as herein required, shall comply with the provisions of this section.

Subd. 2. **License plates.** Either such rear lamp or separate lamp shall be so constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate and render it legible from a distance of 50 feet to the rear. Any rear lamp or rear lamps, together with any separate lamp for illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted.

Subd. 3. **Reflectors.** On and after January 1, 1960, each new motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, hereafter sold and each such vehicle hereafter operated on a highway, shall carry at the rear either as a part of the rear lamp, or separately, at least two reflectors. The reflectors shall be of a type approved by the commissioner and shall be mounted as close as is practicable to the extreme edges of the vehicle at a height not more than 60, nor less than 20 inches above the surface upon which the vehicle stands. Each such reflector shall be so designed and maintained as to be visible at night from all distances within 300 to 50 feet from the vehicle, except that on a commercial vehicle the reflectors shall be visible from all distances within 500 to 50 feet from the vehicle, when directly in front of a motor vehicle displaying lawfully lighted headlamps.

[1937 c 464 s 86; 1947 c 428 s 25; 1953 c 201 s 1; 1957 c 754 s 2; 1959 c 215 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 6, 7] (2720-236)

**169.51 CLEARANCE AND MARKER LAMPS.** Every motor vehicle or motor-drawn vehicle designed or used for the transportation of property, or for the transportation of passengers for compensation, shall display lighted lamps, as required in this section.

Every such vehicle having a width, including load thereon, at any part in excess of 80 inches shall be equipped with four clearance lamps, two located on the front at opposite sides and not more than six inches from the extreme outer edge of the vehicle or load, displaying a white or amber light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle, and two located on the rear on opposite sides not more than six inches from the extreme outer edge of the vehicle or load, displaying a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the vehicle. The front clearance lamps shall be located at a height of not less than 24 inches above the head lamp centers. The rear clearance lamps shall be in addition to the red rear lamp hereinbefore required.

Every such vehicle or combination of such vehicles which exceeds 30 feet in overall length shall be equipped with at least four side marker lamps, one on each side near the front and one on each side near the rear. Such lamps shall be at a height of not less than 24 inches above the surface upon which the vehicle stands. The lamps near the front shall display a white or amber light and lamps near the rear shall display a red light, each visible from a distance of 500 feet to the side of the vehicle on which it is located. If the clearance lamps on the right and left sides of the vehicle, as hereinbefore required, display lights visible from a distance of 500 feet at right angles to the right and left side, respectively, of the vehicle, they shall be deemed to meet the requirements as to marker lamps, provided an additional marker lamp, white or amber, is displayed approximately midway between the above specified marker lamps.

[1937 c 464 s 87] (2720-237)

**169.52 PROJECTING LOADS; LIGHTS AND FLAGS.** When the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required in this chapter, a red light or lantern plainly

visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the sides and rear. The light or lantern required under this section shall be in addition to the rear light required upon every vehicle. At any time when no lights are required there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of such load a red flag or cloth not less than 16 inches square.

[1937 c 464 s 88] (2720-238)

**169.53 LIGHTS FOR PARKED VEHICLES.** When a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a highway or shoulder adjacent thereto during the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required, it shall be equipped with one or more lamps which shall exhibit a white or amber light on the roadway side visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, except that local authorities may provide by ordinance that no lights need be displayed upon a vehicle when stopped or parked in accordance with local parking regulations upon a highway where there is sufficient light to clearly reveal any person or object within a distance of 500 feet upon the highway. Any lighted head lamps upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.

[1937 c 464 s 89; 1947 c 428 s 26; 1959 c 96 s 1] (2720-239)

**169.54** [Repealed, 1951 c 132 s 1]

**169.55 LIGHTS ON ALL VEHICLES.** Subdivision 1. At the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required each vehicle including an animal-drawn vehicle and any vehicle specifically excepted in sections 169.47 to 169.79, with respect to equipment and not hereinbefore specifically required to be equipped with lamps, shall be equipped with one or more lighted lamps or lanterns projecting a white light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and with a lamp or lantern exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, except that reflectors meeting the maximum requirements of this chapter may be used in lieu of the lights required in this subdivision. It shall be unlawful to project a white light to the rear of any such vehicle while traveling on any street or highway, unless such vehicle is moving in reverse.

Subd. 2. At the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required, (1) every farm tractor and self-propelled unit of farm equipment shall be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a white or amber light to the front, and at least one lamp displaying a red light to the rear; (2) every self-propelled unit of farm equipment shall also display two red reflectors, each at least 15 square inches in area, visible to the rear; (3) every combination of a self-propelled and towed unit of farm equipment shall be equipped with at least one lamp mounted to indicate as nearly as practicable the extreme left projection of the combination and displaying a white or amber light to the front and a red light to the rear; (4) the last unit of every combination of farm equipment shall display two red reflectors, each at least 15 square inches in area, visible to the rear.

The requirements of this subdivision apply to new farm tractors and equipment described herein on and after January 1, 1960; and to all such farm tractors and equipment on and after January 1, 1962.

[1937 c 464 s 91; 1947 c 428 s 27; 1949 c 574; 1959 c 410 s 1] (2720-241)

**169.56 AUXILIARY LIGHTS.** Subdivision 1. **Spot lights.** Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed two spot lamps and every lighted spot lamp shall be so aimed and used upon approaching another vehicle that no part of the high intensity portion of the beam will be directed on the road surface to the left of the center of the vehicle, nor more than 100 feet ahead of the vehicle upon which such lamps are mounted.

Subd. 2. **Fog lights.** Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed two fog lamps mounted on the front at a height not less than 12 inches nor more than 30 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light to the left of the center of the vehicle shall at a distance of 25 feet ahead project higher than a level of four inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes. Lighted fog lamps meeting the above requirements may be used with lower headlamp beams as specified in section 169.60.

Subd. 3. **Auxiliary passing lights.** Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed two auxiliary passing lamps mounted on the front at a height of not less than 24 inches nor more than 42 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. The provisions of section 169.60 shall apply to any combination of headlamps and auxiliary passing lamps.

Subd. 4. **Auxiliary driving lights.** Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed two auxiliary driving lamps mounted on the front at a height not less than 16 inches nor more than 42 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. The provisions of section 169.60 shall apply to any combination of headlamps and auxiliary driving lamps.

[1937 c 464 s 92; 1945 c 207 s 2; 1959 c 521 s 5] (2720-242)

**169.57 VEHICLE SIGNALS.** Subdivision 1. **Stop lights.** (a) Any vehicle may be equipped and when required under this chapter, shall be equipped with at least two stop lamps on the rear which shall emit a red or yellow light and which shall be actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake and which may, but need not be, incorporated with the tail lamps and which shall be plainly visible and understandable from a distance of 100 feet to the rear during normal sunlight and at night.

(b) No person shall sell or offer for sale or operate on the highways any motor vehicle registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1960, unless it is equipped with at least two stop lamps meeting the requirements of this subdivision, except that a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or truck tractor manufactured or assembled after said date shall be equipped with at least one stop lamp meeting the requirements of this subdivision.

Subd. 2. **Turn signal.** (a) Any vehicle may be equipped, and when required under this chapter shall be equipped, with a lamp or lamps or mechanical signal device of such color as may be approved by the commissioner and capable of clearly indicating any intention to turn either to the right or to the left and shall be visible and understandable during both daytime and nighttime from a distance of 100 feet both to the front and rear.

(b) On or after July 1, 1949, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale any new motor vehicle, excepting motor-cycles, motor scooters, and bicycles with motor attached, unless it is equipped with turn signals meeting the requirements of this chapter.

Subd. 3. **Maintenance.** (a) When a vehicle is equipped with stop lamps or signal lamps, such lamps shall at all times be maintained in good working condition.

(b) No stop lamps or signal lamp shall project a glaring or dazzling light.

(c) All mechanical signal devices shall be self-illuminated when in use at the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required.

[1937 c 464 s 93; 1945 c 207 s 3; 1947 c 428 s 28; 1949 c 90 s 2; 1959 c 521 s 8] (2720-243)

**169.58 IDENTIFICATION LAMPS.** Subdivision 1. Any vehicle or combination of vehicles having a width including load thereon at any part in excess of 80 inches or which exceeds 30 feet in over-all length may be equipped with identification lamps on the front displaying three amber or white lights and identification lamps on the rear displaying three red lights, and when so equipped the lights in each such group shall be evenly spaced not less than 6 nor more than 12 inches apart, along a horizontal line as near to the top of the vehicle as practicable, and these lights shall be visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front and rear, respectively, of the vehicle.

Subd. 2. Any motor vehicles operated by an active member of a volunteer fire department authorized by or contracting with any city, village, borough, town, or township in this state and upon obtaining a permit therefor from the commissioner of highways may be equipped with a lamp emitting a red light to the front of such vehicle. The lens of such lamp shall be not more than three inches in diameter. Such lamp shall be lighted only when the member of the volunteer fire department is responding to an emergency call in connection with his duties as a volunteer fireman. The commissioner of highways is hereby authorized to issue permits on applications of a member of a volunteer fire department properly certified to by the chief of said volunteer fire department, and it shall be the duty of the chiefs of all volunteer fire departments to notify the commissioner immediately upon the termination of such membership.

[1937 c 464 s 94; 1945 c 207 s 4; 1949 c 349] (2720-244)

**169.59 WARNING LIGHTS.** Subdivision 1. **Fender lights.** Any vehicle may be equipped with not more than two side cowl or fender lamps, one on each side which shall emit a white light without glare.

Subd. 2. **Runningboard lights.** Any vehicle may be equipped with not more than one runningboard courtesy lamp on each side thereof, which shall emit a

white or yellow light without glare.

Subd. 3. **Back-up lights.** Any vehicle may be equipped with not more than two back-up lamps, either separately or in combination with another lamp, except that no such back-up lamp shall be continuously lighted when the vehicle is in forward motion, nor shall it project a glaring light.

Subd. 4. **Flashing warning lights.** Any vehicle may be equipped with lamps which may be used for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing, and when so equipped may display such warning in addition to any other warning signals required by this act. The lamps used to display such warnings to the front shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall display simultaneous flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color between white and amber. The lamps used to display such warnings to the rear shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall show simultaneously flashing amber or red lights, or any shade of color between amber and red. These warning lights shall be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night.

[1937 c 464 s 95; 1959 c 521 s 9] (2720-245)

**169.60 DISTRIBUTION OF LIGHT.** Except as hereinafter provided, the head lamps, or the auxiliary driving lamps, or combinations thereof, on motor vehicles shall be so arranged that the driver may select at will between distributions of light projected to different elevations, subject to the following requirements and limitations:

(1) There shall be an uppermost distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed and of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead for all conditions of loading;

(2) There shall be a lowermost distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead; and on a straight level road under any condition of loading none of the high intensity portion of the beam shall be directed to strike the eyes of an approaching driver;

(3) All road lighting equipment manufactured and installed on and after January 1, 1938, shall be so arranged that when any beam is used which is not in conformity with clause (2), means shall be provided for indicating to the driver when such beams are being used.

[1937 c 464 s 96; Ex1937 c 38 s 1; 1955 c 53 s 1] (2720-246)

**169.61 COMPOSITE BEAMS.** When a motor vehicle is being operated on a highway or shoulder adjacent thereto during the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required in this chapter, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements and limitations.

When the driver of a vehicle approaches a vehicle within 1000 feet, such driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver.

When the driver of a vehicle follows another vehicle within 200 feet to the rear, except when engaged in the act of overtaking and passing, such driver shall use a distribution of light permissible under this chapter other than the uppermost distribution of light specified in section 169.60.

[1937 c 464 s 97; 1945 c 207 s 5; 1953 c 330 s 1; 1955 c 52 s 1] (2720-247)

**169.62 CERTAIN LIGHTS PERMITTED ON CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES.** Head lamps arranged to provide a single distribution of light not supplemented by auxiliary driving lamps shall be permitted on motor vehicles manufactured and sold prior to January 1, 1938, in lieu of multiple-beam road lighting equipment herein specified if the single distribution of light complies with the following requirements and limitations:

(1) The head lamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle is fully loaded none of the high intensity portion of the lamp beam rises above a horizontal plane passing through the head lamp centers parallel to the level surface upon which the vehicle stands, and in no case higher than 42 inches above the level on which the vehicle stands at a distance of 75 and more feet ahead;

(2) The intensity shall be sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance

of at least 200 feet.

[1937 c 464 s 98] (2720-248)

**169.63 NUMBER OF LAMPS.** At all times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required in this chapter, at least two lighted head lamps shall be displayed, one on each side at the front of every motor vehicle, other than a motor-cycle; provided, that under adverse weather conditions two lighted auxiliary lamps, one on each side at the front of the vehicle, may be used in lieu of two lighted head lamps, except when such vehicle is parked subject to the regulations governing lights on parked vehicles.

When a motor vehicle equipped with head lamps, as herein required, is also equipped with any auxiliary lamps, spot lamps or any other lamps on the front thereof projecting a beam of intensity greater than 300-candle power, not more than a total of four of any such lamps on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at any one time when upon a highway.

The maximum beam candle power from any combination of lamps used at any time for road lighting shall not exceed that authorized by the commissioner.

[1937 c 464 s 99; 1939 c 430 s 18] (2720-249)

**169.64 PROHIBITED LIGHTS.** Subdivision 1. **Bright lights.** Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle, other than a head lamp, a spot lamp, or an auxiliary driving lamp, which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than 300-candle power, shall be so directed that no part of the beam will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than 75 feet from the vehicle.

Subd. 2. **Colored lights.** Unless otherwise authorized by the commissioner, no vehicle shall be equipped, nor shall any person drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any highway with any lamp or device displaying a red light or any colored light other than those required or permitted in this chapter.

Subd. 3. **Flashing lights.** Flashing lights are prohibited, except on an authorized emergency vehicle, school bus, road maintenance equipment or on any vehicle as a means of indicating a right or left turn, or the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking or passing.

Subd. 4. **Blue lights.** Blue lights are prohibited on all vehicles except road maintenance equipment operated by or under contract to the state or a political subdivision thereof.

Subd. 5. **Flashing red light on wrecker.** A device displaying a flashing or intermittent red light of a type approved by the commissioner of highways for that purpose, and in accordance with section 169.64, may be used on a wrecker while engaged in emergency service at the scene of an accident. Such flashing red light shall not be displayed when traveling upon the highway or at any time other than at the scene of an accident.

[1937 c 464 s 100; 1947 c 428 s 29; 1949 c 90 s 3; 1953 c 103 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 10] (2720-250)

**169.65 SPECIFICATIONS FOR LIGHTING DEVICES.** The commissioner is hereby authorized and required to adopt and enforce standard specifications as to the amount, color and direction of light to be emitted or reflected by lighting devices and as to the general construction and mounting on the vehicle for compliance with the requirements and limitations of this chapter.

No person shall have for sale, sell, or offer for sale for use upon or as a part of the equipment of a vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer, or use upon any such vehicle, any head lamp, auxiliary driving lamp, rear lamp, signal lamp, spot lamp, clearance lamp, marker lamp or reflector, or parts of any of the foregoing, unless of a type which has been submitted to the commissioner and approved by him.

No person shall have for sale, sell, or offer for sale for use upon or as a part of the equipment of a vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer, or bicycle any lamp or device mentioned in this section, which has been approved by the commissioner unless such lamp or device bears thereon the trade-mark or name and model designation all permanently marked under which it is approved so as to be legible when installed.

No person shall use upon any vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer or bicycle any lamps mentioned in this section unless such lamps are equipped with bulbs of a type approved by the commissioner, having a rated candle power, and are mounted and adjusted as to focus and aim in accordance with instructions of the commissioner.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to approve or disapprove lighting devices.

The commissioner is hereby required to approve or disapprove any lighting

device, of a type on which approval is specifically required in this chapter, within a reasonable time after such device has been submitted.

The commissioner is further authorized to set up a procedure which shall be followed when any device is submitted for approval.

The commissioner is authorized to set and collect a reasonable fee for the testing and approval of all types of devices upon which approval is required in this chapter. Such fee may be sufficient in amount to reimburse the department for all costs connected with such test and approval.

The commissioner, upon approving any such lamp or device, shall issue to the applicant a certificate of approval, together with any instructions determined by him.

The commissioner shall publish lists of all lamps and devices by name and type which have been approved by him, together with instructions as to the permissible candlepower rating of the bulbs which he has determined for use therein and such other instructions as to adjustment as he may deem necessary. No person shall sell for use or use on any vehicle any reconverted lamp or any device redesigned for a use other than for which it was originally approved unless authorized by the commissioner.

[1937 c 464 s 101, 102, 103; 1945 c 207 s 6] (2720-251, 2720-252, 2720-253)

**169.66 HEARINGS ON SPECIFICATIONS.** When the commissioner has reason to believe that an approved device which is being sold commercially does not comply with the requirements of this chapter, he may, after giving 30 days' previous notice to the person holding the certificate of approval for such device in this state, conduct a hearing upon the question of compliance of the approved device. After the hearing the commissioner shall determine whether the approved device meets the requirements of this chapter. If it does not meet the requirements of this chapter, he shall give notice to the person holding the certificate of approval for such device in this state.

If, at the expiration of 90 days after such notice, the person holding the certificate of approval for such device has failed to satisfy the commissioner that the approved device as thereafter to be sold meets the requirements of this chapter, the commissioner shall suspend or revoke the approval issued therefor until or unless such device is resubmitted to and retested by an authorized testing agency and is found to meet the requirements of this chapter, and may require that all such devices sold since the notification following the hearing be replaced with devices that do comply with the requirements of this chapter. The commissioner may at the time of the retest purchase in the open market and submit to the testing agency one or more sets of such approved devices, and if such device upon such retest fails to meet the requirements of this chapter, the commissioner may refuse to renew the certificate of approval of such device.

[1937 c 464 s 104] (2720-254)

**169.67 BRAKES.** Subdivision 1. **Motor vehicles.** Every motor vehicle, other than a motor-cycle, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle, including two separate means of applying the brakes, each of which means shall be effective to apply the brakes to at least two wheels. If these two separate means of applying the brakes are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the motor vehicle without brakes on at least two wheels.

Subd. 2. **Motor-cycles and bicycles.** Every motor-cycle, and bicycle with motor attached, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with at least one brake, which may be operated by hand or foot.

Subd. 3. **Trailers, semi-trailers, tank trailers.** Every trailer, semi-trailer, or other vehicle of a gross weight of 1,500 pounds or more, when drawn or pulled upon a highway, shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold such vehicle, and so designed as to be applied by the driver of a towing motor vehicle from its cab, except (a) trailers owned by farmers when transporting agricultural products produced on the owner's farm or supplies back to the farm of the owner of the trailer, (b) custom service vehicles drawn by motor vehicles equipped with brakes capable of stopping both vehicles within the distance required by law for vehicles with four-wheel brakes, (c) trailers or semi-trailers when used by retail dealers delivering implements of husbandry, (d) tank trailers not exceeding 8,500 pounds gross weight used solely for

transporting liquid fertilizer or gaseous fertilizer under pressure when hauled by a truck capable of stopping with loaded trailer attached in the distance specified by subdivision 5 for vehicles equipped with four-wheel brakes, providing the gross weight of such trailer or semi-trailer other than those described in clause (d) when drawn by a pleasure vehicle shall not exceed 3,000 pounds, or when drawn by a truck or tractor shall not exceed 6,000 pounds, and except disabled vehicles towed to a place of repair.

Subd. 4. **Service brakes on all wheels; exceptions.** Every new motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer, sold in this state and operated upon the highways shall be equipped with service brakes upon all wheels of every such vehicle, except that any motorcycle, any semi-trailer of less than 1,000 pounds gross weight, a third wheel, of a swivel type, on a house trailer, a temporary auxiliary axle attached to a motor vehicle during the period of road restrictions for the purpose of relieving weight of another axle, when the temporary auxiliary axle and the axle to be relieved do not exceed the combined gross weight of 18,000 pounds, and the vehicle to which such temporary axle is attached meets the brake requirements of this section, need not be equipped with brakes; and except, further, that brakes are not required on the front wheels of vehicles having three or more axles provided the brakes on the other wheels are adequate to stop the vehicle in accordance with the braking performance requirements of subdivision 5.

Subd. 5. **Performance standards.** Every motor vehicle or combination of vehicles, at all times and under all conditions of loading, upon application of the service (foot) brake, shall be capable of (a) developing a braking force that is not less than the percentage of its gross weight tabulated herein for its classification, (b) decelerating in a stop from not more than 20 miles per hour at not less than the feet per second per second tabulated herein for its classification, and (c) stopping from a speed of 20 miles per hour in not more than the distance tabulated herein for its classification, such distance to be measured from the point at which movement of the service brake pedal or control begins. Tests for deceleration and stopping distance shall be made on a substantially level (not to exceed plus or minus one per cent grade), dry, smooth, hard surface that is free from loose material.

Deceleration Table

1 Classification of Vehicles and Combinations	2 Braking Force as a Percentage of Gross Vehicle or Combination Weight	3 Deceleration in Feet Per Second Per Second	4 Brake System Application and Braking Distance in Feet
Passenger vehicles, not including buses .....	52.8%	17	25
Single-unit vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds .....	43.5%	14	30
Single-unit, 2-axle vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 or more pounds, and buses not having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating .....	43.5%	14	40
All other vehicles and combinations with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 or more pounds.....	43.5%	14	50

All brakes shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as practicable with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle.

[1937 c 464 s 105, 106; Ex1937 c 38 s 2; 1939 c 430 s 19; 1945 c 207 s 7; 1953 c 423 s 1; 1955 c 452 s 1; 1959 c 277 s 1; 1961 c 89 s 1] (2720-255, 2720-256)

**169.672 BRAKE FLUID; COMMISSIONER'S APPROVAL REQUIRED.** From and after July 1, 1953, no person shall have for sale, sell or offer for sale for use in motor vehicle brake systems in this state any hydraulic brake fluid unless of a type and brand approved by the commissioner of highways. Any person violating



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the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[1953 c 302 s 1]

**169.68 HORNS.** Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation, give audible warning with his horn, but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.

No vehicle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a vehicle, any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section. It is permissible, but not required, that any commercial vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal. All authorized emergency vehicles shall be equipped with a siren capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet and of a type approved by the department, but such siren shall not be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which latter events the driver of such vehicle shall sound the siren when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof.

[1937 c 464 s 107] (2720-257)

**169.69 MUFFLERS.** Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order which blends the exhaust noise into the overall vehicle noise and is in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise, and no person shall use a muffler cutout, by-pass, or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a street or highway. The exhaust system shall not emit or produce a sharp popping or crackling sound. Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with such parts and equipment so arranged and kept in such state of repair as to prevent carbon monoxide gas from entering the interior of the vehicle.

No person shall have for sale, sell or offer for sale or use on any motor vehicle any muffler that fails to comply with the specifications as required by the commissioner of highways.

[1937 c 464 s 108; 1939 c 430 s 20; 1953 c 306 s 1] (2720-258)

**169.70 REAR VIEW MIRRORS.** Every motor vehicle which is so constructed, loaded or connected with another vehicle as to obstruct the driver's view to the rear thereof from the driver's position shall be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of such vehicle.

[1937 c 464 s 109] (2720-259)

**169.71 WINDSHIELDS.** Subdivision 1. No person shall drive or operate any motor vehicle with a windshield cracked or discolored to an extent to limit or obstruct proper vision, or with any objects suspended between the driver and the windshield, other than sun visors and rear vision mirrors, or with any sign, poster, or other nontransparent material upon the front windshield, sidewings, side or rear windows of such vehicle, other than a certificate or other paper required to be so displayed by law, or authorized by the state director of civil defense, or the commissioner of highways.

Subd. 2. The windshield on every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a device for cleaning rain, snow or other moisture from the windshield, which device shall be so constructed as to be controlled or operated by the driver of the vehicle.

Subd. 3. No person shall drive any motor vehicle with the windshield or front side windows covered with steam or frost to such an extent as to prevent proper vision.

[1937 c 464 s 110; 1939 c 430 s 21; 1947 c 428 s 30; 1953 c 745 s 4; 1959 c 174 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 11; 1961 c 34 s 1] (2720-260)

**169.72 SOLID RUBBER TIRES.** Every solid rubber tire on a vehicle shall have rubber on its entire traction surface at least one inch thick above the edge of the flange of the entire periphery.

No person shall operate or move on any highway any motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer, having any metal tire in contact with the roadway, except in case of emergency.

No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway shall have on its periphery any block, stud, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberances of any material other than

rubber which projects beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire, except that it shall be permissible to use farm machinery with tires having protuberances which will not injure the highway, and except also that it shall be permissible to use tire chains of reasonable proportions upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid.

The commissioner and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may, in their discretion, issue special permits authorizing the operation upon a highway of traction engines or tractors having movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of such movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this chapter.

[1937 c 464 s 111] (2720-261)

**169.73 BUMPERS, SAFEGUARDS.** All motor vehicles shall be equipped with front and rear bumpers or with front bumpers and with rear reflectors, as herein provided, and all trailers and semi-trailers weighing more than 1,500 pounds shall be equipped with rear bumpers or with rear reflectors, as herein provided. Such bumpers shall be securely attached to the frame thereof, and shall extend beyond the extreme front and rear points, respectively, of such vehicles. The center point of such bumpers shall be not more than 20, nor less than 14, inches from the ground when the vehicle is unloaded, provided that two rigid cross-bars may be attached to any bumper to extend it so that it will reach into a point within the required height from the ground. All trucks and trailers manufactured and sold after July 1, 1955, having a rear platform or tailboard more than 20 inches above the ground, except public utility trailers used for hauling reels of cable or wire, pole trucks, dump trucks, and farm trucks as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 168.011, Subdivision 17, and trucks and semi-trailers transporting logs, pulpwood and other raw and unfinished forest products from the place of production to an assembly yard or rail head when such transportation constitutes the first haul thereof, are required when operating upon the highways of this state, to have rigid rear safeguards, so constructed as to prevent any part of another motor vehicle from penetrating the area immediately below such rear platform or tailboard, when such tail board is in a vertical position.

[1937 c 464 s 112; 1939 c 430 s 22; 1955 c 647 s 1] (2720-262)

**169.733 WHEEL FLAPS ON TRUCKS AND TRAILERS.** Every truck, trailer and semi-trailer, excepting pole trailers and rear-end dump trucks, shall be provided with wheel flaps or other suitable protection above and behind the rearmost wheels of the vehicle or combination of vehicles to prevent, as far as practicable, such wheels from throwing dirt, water, or other materials on the windshields of vehicles which follow. Such flaps or protectors shall have a ground clearance of not more than one-fifth of the horizontal distance from the center of the rearmost axle to the flap under any conditions of loading or operation of the motor vehicle and shall be at least as wide as the tires they are protecting.

If the motor vehicle is so designed and constructed that the above requirements are accomplished by means of body construction or other means of enclosure, then no such protectors or flaps shall be required.

If the rear wheels are not covered at the top by fenders, body or other parts of the vehicle, the flap or other protective means shall be extended at least to a point directly above the center of the rearmost axle.

Lamps or wiring shall not be attached to fender flaps.

[1951 c 640 s 1; 1953 c 619 s 1]

**169.74 SAFETY GLASS.** Subdivision 1. **Required.** No person shall sell any new motor vehicle, nor shall any new motor vehicle be registered thereafter unless the vehicle is equipped with safety glass wherever glass is used in doors, windows, and windshields.

**Subd. 2. Definition.** "Safety Glass" means any product composed of glass, or other material, as may be approved by the commissioner, as safety glass.

**Subd. 3. Replacements.** All glass replacement in doors, windows, and windshields or partitions of motor vehicles shall be made with materials meeting the requirements of this chapter for safety glass if glass is used therefor.

**Subd. 4. Other material prohibited.** No glazing material other than of a type meeting the requirements of this chapter shall be sold, offered for sale, offered for use, or used for installation in doors, windows or windshields of motor vehicles or of passenger-carrying trailers or semi-trailers.

Subd. 5. **Frostshields.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to include frostshields.

[1937 c 464 s 113; 1947 c 428 s 31] (2720-263)

**169.743 BUG DEFLECTOR.** Bug deflectors shall be permitted but not required on motor vehicles. No bug deflector shall be sold, offered for sale, or used which exceeds 50 square inches in area or which is composed of other than a non-illuminated, transparent material.

[1953 c 304 s 1]

**169.75 FLARES AND FLAGS.** Subdivision 1. **Three flares.** No person shall operate any passenger bus, motor truck or truck tractor upon a highway outside of a business or residence district at any time for a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise, unless there shall be carried in such vehicle the following equipment except as otherwise provided in subdivision 2:

At least three flares, three red electric lanterns, or three portable red reflector devices; each of which shall be capable of being seen and distinguished at a distance of 500 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at nighttime.

Subd. 2. **Inflammables.** No person shall at any time operate a motor vehicle transporting inflammable liquids in bulk or compressed inflammable gases as cargo or part of cargo upon a highway unless it carries three electric lanterns or three portable reflector units to be used in lieu of flares and no open burning flares shall be carried on or placed adjacent to such vehicle.

Subd. 3. **Three flags.** No person shall operate any motor truck, truck tractor or bus upon a highway outside of a business or residence district unless there shall be carried in such vehicle at least three red, yellow or orange flags not less than 12 inches square which shall be displayed at any time from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset under circumstances which would require the use of warning lights at night and in the manner and position governing the use of warning lights as prescribed in subdivision 5.

Subd. 4. **Approved type.** Every flare, lantern, signal, or reflector required in this section shall be of a type approved by the commissioner.

Subd. 5. **When used.** When any motor truck, or truck tractor or bus is disabled upon a highway during the period when lighted lamps must be displayed on vehicles and such motor vehicle cannot immediately be removed from the main traveled portion of a highway outside of a business district, the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle shall promptly cause flares, lanterns, or other signals to be lighted and placed as warning lights upon the highway, one at a distance of approximately 100 feet in advance of the vehicle, one at a distance of approximately 100 feet to the rear of the vehicle, and the third upon the traffic side of the vehicle, approximately ten feet rearward or forward thereof.

[1937 c 464 s 114; 1939 c 430 s 23; 1947 c 428 s 32; 1949 c 656] (2720-264)

**169.751 DEFINITIONS.** For the purposes of sections 169.751 to 169.754 the following words shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section:

(a) "First aid equipment" shall mean equipment for the purpose of rendering first aid to sick or injured persons as prescribed by the state highway department for its highway patrol vehicles, such equipment to include materials for the application of splints to fractures.

(b) "Patrol motor vehicles" shall mean the highway patrol motor vehicles used in law enforcement of the state highway department, the county sheriffs, and the various city, village, town, and other local police departments.

[1953 c 651 s 1]

**169.752 PATROL MOTOR VEHICLES, FIRST AID EQUIPMENT.** Every patrol motor vehicle shall be equipped with and carry first aid equipment.

[1953 c 651 s 2]

**169.753 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, TRAINED TO USE FIRST AID EQUIPMENT.** Law enforcement officers operating patrol motor vehicles shall be trained in the use and application of first aid equipment.

[1953 c 651 s 3]

**169.754 APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.** The various municipalities and political subdivisions of the State of Minnesota may for their fiscal years beginning after the enactment hereof appropriate such funds as are necessary for the purchase of first aid equipment for their patrol motor vehicles.

[1953 c 651 s 4]

**169.76 EXPLOSIVES.** Any person operating any vehicle transporting any

explosives as a cargo or part of a cargo upon a highway shall at all times comply with the provisions of this section. The vehicle shall be marked or placarded on each side and the rear with the word "Explosives" in letters not less than eight inches high, and shall be equipped with fire-extinguishers of a type and number approved by the commissioner, filled and ready for immediate use and placed at a convenient point on the vehicle so used.

The commissioner is hereby authorized and directed to promulgate such additional regulations governing the transportation of explosives and other dangerous articles by vehicles upon the highways as he shall deem advisable for the protection of the public.

[1937 c 464 s 115] (2720-265)

**169.77 LAMP AND BRAKE ADJUSTING STATIONS.** Subdivision 1. **Official stations.** The commissioner shall designate, furnish instructions to and supervise official stations for adjusting head lamps and auxiliary lamps and official stations for testing brakes to conform with the provisions of this chapter. The commissioner shall cause inspections to be made of such stations and shall revoke and require the surrender of the certificate issued to a station which he finds is not properly equipped or conducted. When head lamps and auxiliary lamps or brakes have been adjusted in conformity with the instructions issued by the commissioner a certificate of adjustment shall be issued to the driver of the motor vehicle on forms issued in duplicate by the commissioner showing date of issue, registration number of the motor vehicle, owner's name, make of vehicle, and official designation of the adjusting station.

Subd. 2. **Lamp station certificate.** The driver of any motor vehicle equipped with approved head lamps, auxiliary lamps, rear lamps, or signal lamps, who is arrested upon a charge that any of these lamps are improperly adjusted or are equipped with bulbs of a candlepower not approved for use therewith, shall be allowed 48 hours within which to bring the lamps into conformance with requirements of this chapter. It is a defense to any such charge that the person arrested produce in court or submit to the prosecuting attorney a certificate from an official adjusting station showing that within 48 hours after such arrest, the lamps have been made to conform with the requirements of this chapter.

[1937 c 464 s 116; 1945 c 428; 1947 c 428 s 33; 1955 c 333 s 1] (2720-266)

**169.78 MUNICIPAL INSPECTION STATIONS.** Every municipality in the state shall have the power to acquire, erect, establish, equip, operate, and maintain motor vehicle testing stations, for the purpose of testing and inspecting motor vehicles using the public streets of any such municipality, and to finance and pay for the same out of the proceeds of the collection of fees charged for such inspection. Any municipality may pass, and by proper penalties enforce, ordinances for these purposes, and by such ordinances:

(1) Require the attendance of such motor vehicles at such testing station for the purpose of inspection, at such time as shall be deemed reasonable, after due notice thereof shall first have been given to the owner of such motor vehicle or his agent; provided, that any owner of five or more commercial vehicles having testing equipment and facilities meeting the requirements of the municipality may be exempted from the requirements of attendance at such testing station;

(2) Require the payment of inspection fees, but such fees shall not exceed the amount of 50 cents for any one inspection, or \$1 for any one year;

(3) Provide free inspections as often as the owner desires between compulsory inspection periods;

(4) Provide for the issuance of an inspection certificate and require the same to be displayed on the windshield of such motor vehicle in the lower right corner thereof, and in such manner as not to obstruct the driver's view;

(5) Prohibit the operation on the public streets of such municipality of any motor vehicle which shall not have been submitted for inspection within a reasonable time after notice of such required inspection shall have been given to the owner of such motor vehicle or his agent, or any motor vehicle which shall be found to be in a faulty or unsafe condition or in violation of any city ordinance or state law, and now having a proper inspection certificate properly displayed.

No such inspection shall be required of the owner of a vehicle who is not a resident of the municipality operating and maintaining the motor vehicle testing station.

In making such inspection or tests, no additional or different mechanical

requirements than those provided by state law shall be imposed upon or against a motor vehicle or the owner thereof, or his agent, in order to entitle such vehicle to an inspection certificate, but no such certificate shall be issued or attached to any vehicle until and unless such vehicle shall, upon such inspection, be found to comply with the terms of the state law.

[1937 c 464 s 117] (2720-267)

**169.79 VEHICLE REGISTRATION.** No person shall operate, drive or park a motor vehicle on any highway unless such vehicle shall have been registered in accordance with the laws of this state and shall have the number plates for the current year only, as assigned to it by the registrar of motor vehicles, conspicuously displayed thereon in such manner that the view thereof shall not be obstructed. If the vehicle be a motor-cycle, motor-cycle side-car, trailer, or semi-trailer, one such plate shall be displayed on the rear thereof; if it be any other kind of motor vehicle, one such plate shall be displayed on the front and one on the rear thereof; securely fastened so as to prevent the same from swinging. It shall be the duty of the person driving the motor vehicle to keep the plate legible and unobstructed and free from grease, dust, or other blurring material so that the lettering thereon shall be plainly visible at all times.

[1937 c 464 s 118; 1961 c 622 s 1] (2720-268)

**169.80 SIZE, WEIGHT, LOAD.** Subdivision 1. **Limitations.** It is a misdemeanor for any person to drive or move, or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved, on any highway any vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight exceeding the limitations stated in sections 169.80 to 169.88, or otherwise in violation of sections 169.80 to 169.88, and the maximum size and weight of vehicles herein specified shall be lawful throughout this state, and local authorities shall have no power or authority to alter these limitations except as express authority may be granted in sections 169.80 to 169.88.

When all the axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles are weighed separately the sum of the weights of the axles so weighed shall be evidence of the total gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles so weighed.

When each of the axles of any group that contains two or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles have been weighed separately the sum of the weights of the axles so weighed shall be evidence of the total gross weight on the group of axles so weighed.

When, in any group of three or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles any axles have been weighed separately and two or more axles consecutive to each other in said group have been weighed together, the sum of the weights of the axles weighed separately and the axles weighed together shall be evidence of the total gross weight of the group of axles so weighed.

The provisions of sections 169.80 to 169.88 governing size, weight, and load shall not apply to fire apparatus, or to implements of husbandry temporarily moved upon a highway, or to loads of loose hay or corn stalks if transported by a horse-drawn vehicle or drawn by a farm tractor, or to a vehicle operated under the terms of a special permit issued as herein provided.

**Subd. 2. Outside width.** The total outside width of any vehicle or the load thereon shall not exceed eight feet except that the outside width of a farm tractor shall not exceed nine feet, and except as otherwise provided in this section.

The total outside width of a trackless trolley car or passenger motor bus, operated exclusively in any city or village, or contiguous cities or villages, in this state, shall not exceed nine feet; provided a passenger motor bus, not exceeding eight and one-half feet in width, may operate beyond the foregoing areas and within 20 miles of the boundaries of a city of the first class.

The total outside width of loads of forest products when loaded crossways shall not exceed 100 inches, provided the load is securely bound with a chain attached to front and rear of the loading platform of the vehicle so as to hold the load securely in place.

**Subd. 3. Load on passenger vehicles.** No passenger-type vehicle shall be operated on any highway with any load carried thereon extending beyond the line of the fenders on the left side of such vehicle nor extending more than six inches beyond the line of the fenders on the right side thereof.

[1937 c 464 s 119-121; Ex1937 c 45 s 1; 1939 c 23 s 1, 2; 1939 c 430 s 24; 1951 c 49 s 1; 1951 c 394 s 1; 1955 c 280 s 1] (2720-269; 2720-271)

**169.81 HEIGHT AND LENGTH LIMITATION.** Subdivision 1. **Height.** No

vehicle unladen or with load shall exceed a height of 13 feet six inches.

Subd. 2. **Length.** No vehicle unladen or with load shall exceed a length of 40 feet extreme overall dimensions, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, except that the governing body of any city or village is hereby authorized by ordinance to provide for the maximum length of any motor vehicle, or combination of motor vehicles, or the number of vehicles that may be fastened together, and which may be operated upon the streets or highways of such city; provided, that such ordinance shall not prescribe a length less than that permitted by state law. Any such motor vehicle operated in compliance with such ordinance on the streets or highways of such city shall not be deemed to be in violation of this chapter. A truck tractor and semi-trailer shall be regarded as a combination of vehicles for the purpose of determining lawful length.

Subd. 3. **Length of combination.** No combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load, including truck trailers and semi-trailers, shall consist of more than two units and no such combination of vehicles shall exceed a total length of 50 feet, provided that this limitation shall not apply to the transportation of telegraph poles, telephone poles, electric light and power poles or piling, and subject to the following further exceptions: Said length limitations shall not apply to (a) vehicles when transporting pipe, or other objects by a public utility when required for emergency or repair of public service facilities or when operated under special permits as provided in this subdivision, but in respect to night transportation every such vehicle and the load thereon shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps and marker lamps on both sides and upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of such load; (b) house trailers or mobile homes when coupled with a motor vehicle but such combination shall not exceed 55 feet in length. Provided further that two vehicles in transit by the drive-away method in saddle mount combinations may be drawn but such combinations may not exceed 50 feet in length. The state, as to state trunk highways, and any city, village, borough or town, as to roads or streets located therein, may issue permits authorizing the transportation of combinations of vehicles exceeding the limitations herein contained over highways, roads or streets within their boundaries.

Subd. 4. **Projecting loads.** The load upon any vehicle operated alone, or the load upon the front vehicle of a combination of vehicles, shall not extend more than three feet beyond the front wheels of such vehicle or the front bumper of such vehicle if it is equipped with such a bumper.

Subd. 5. **Manner of loading.** No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway unless such vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping therefrom, except that sand may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction, or water or other substances may be sprinkled on a roadway in cleaning or maintaining such roadway.

[1937 c 464 s 122, 123; 1943 c 226 s 1; 1953 c 731 s 1; 1955 c 399 s 1; 1957 c 270 s 1; 1957 c 923 s 2; 1959 c 143 s 1; 1959 c 276 s 1] (2720-272; 2720-273)

**169.82 TRAILER EQUIPMENT.** Any trailer exceeding a gross weight of 6,000 pounds shall be equipped with brakes adequate to stop and hold such trailer, and which are so constructed that they will so operate whenever such trailer becomes detached from the towing vehicle.

When one vehicle is towing another the draw-bar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed thereby, and said draw-bar or other connection shall not exceed 15 feet from one vehicle to the other except the connection between any two vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered.

When one vehicle is towing another and the connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon such connection a white flag or cloth not less than 12 inches square.

Every trailer or semi-trailer shall be hitched to the motor vehicles furnishing the tractive power for it by a device approved by the commissioner as safe and in addition shall be equipped with safety chains permanently attached to the trailer except that where the coupling device is a regulation fifth wheel and king-pin assembly approved by the commissioner such safety chains shall not be required. In towing, such chains shall be carried through a ring on the tow-bar and attached to the towing vehicle, and shall be of sufficient strength to control the trailer in event of failure of the towing device.

[1937 c 464 s 124; 1939 c 430 s 26; 1943 c 226 s 2; 1945 c 207 s 8] (2720-274)

# MINNESOTA STATUTES 1961

1719

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION 169.83

**169.83 WEIGHT LIMITATIONS.** Subdivision 1. **Pneumatic-tired vehicles.** No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires shall be operated upon the highways of this state:

1. Where the gross weight on any wheel exceeds 9,000 pounds;
2. Where the gross weight on any single axle exceeds 18,000 pounds;
3. This limitation shall be increased by 20 percent from January 1 through

March 7 each winter for haulers of raw and unfinished forest products in the following specified zone of the state, where frost conditions are most constant and of longest durations: The zone is bounded as follows: Beginning at Pigeon River, in the northeast corner of Minnesota; thence, in a southwesterly direction along the north shore of Lake Superior to the Minnesota-Wisconsin border; thence, southerly along this border to the southeast corner of Carlton county; thence, west along the south boundary line of Carlton county and continuing west to U. S. Trunk Highway No. 210; thence, westerly along U. S. Trunk Highway No. 210 to U. S. Trunk Highway No. 10; thence, westerly along U. S. Trunk Highway No. 10 to U. S. Trunk Highway No. 71; thence, northerly along U. S. Trunk Highway No. 71 to State Trunk Highway No. 92; thence, northerly along State Trunk Highway No. 92 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 2; thence, westerly along Trunk Highway No. 2 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 32; thence, northerly along Trunk Highway No. 32 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 11; thence, northeast along Trunk Highway No. 11 to the east line of Range 43 W. to the Minnesota-Canadian Border; thence, easterly along said Border to Lake Superior.

In all cases where gross weights in an amount less than in this subdivision set forth are fixed, limited or restricted on any highway or bridge by or pursuant to any other section of this chapter such lesser gross weight as so fixed, limited or restricted shall not be exceeded and in such case shall control instead of the gross weight in this subdivision set forth.

**Subd. 2. Gross weight schedule.** No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires shall be operated upon the highways of this state where the total gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles of any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds that given in the following table for the distance between the centers of the first and last axles of any group of two or more consecutive axles under consideration; the distance between axles being measured longitudinally to the nearest even foot, and when the measurement is a fraction of exactly one-half foot the next largest whole number in feet shall be used, except that when the distance between axles is more than three feet four inches and less than three feet six inches the distance of four feet shall be used:

Distance in Feet Between First and Last Axles of Any Group	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds Allowed On Any Group	Distance in Feet Between First and Last Axles of Any Group	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds Allowed On Any Group
4	32,000	24	53,000
5	32,000	25	54,200
6	32,000	26	55,400
7	32,000	27	56,600
8	33,000	28	57,800
9	34,000	29	59,000
10	35,000	30	60,000
11	35,000	31	61,000
12	37,000	32	62,000
13	39,000	33	63,000
14	41,000	34	64,000
15	42,200	35	65,000
16	43,400	36	66,000
17	44,600	37	67,000
18	45,800	38	68,000
19	47,000	39	69,000
20	48,200	40	70,000
21	49,400	41	71,000
22	50,600	42	72,000
23	51,800	43 or more	72,500

No four consecutive axles on a five axle combination of vehicles shall exceed 60,000 pounds.

During the times and within the zone set forth in subdivision 1 of this section and not otherwise haulers of raw and unfinished forest products shall not be subject to the foregoing limitations of gross weight for groups of two or more consecutive axles in this subdivision set forth but shall in lieu thereof within such zone and during such time be subject to the gross weight limitations as follows: No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires shall be operated by haulers of raw and unfinished forest products upon the highways of this state during the times and within the zone in subdivision 1 of this section set forth where the total gross weight on any two or more consecutive axles of any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds the product of the coefficient named below multiplied by the sum of 40 plus the distance in feet between the first and last axles of the group of axles under consideration. A coefficient of 780 shall be used where the distance between the first and last axles of the group of axles under consideration is less than 18 feet, and a coefficient of 900 shall be used where such distance is 18 feet or over.

In all cases where gross weights in an amount less than in this subdivision set forth are fixed, limited or restricted on any highway or bridge by or pursuant to any other section of this chapter such lesser gross weight as so fixed, limited or restricted shall not be exceeded and in such case shall control instead of the gross weights in this subdivision set forth.

Subd. 3. **Single axle.** A single axle as used in this section is defined as including all wheels whose centers may be included within two parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1951 c 588 s 4]

Subd. 5. **Vehicles not equipped with pneumatic tires.** A vehicle or combination of vehicles not equipped with pneumatic tires shall be governed by the provisions of subdivisions 1, 2, and 3, except that the gross weight limitations shall be reduced by 40 percent.

Subd. 6. **Application.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to vehicles operated exclusively in any city or village in this state which has in force and effect an ordinance regulating the gross weight of vehicles operated therein.

[1937 c 464 s 125; 1943 c 226 s 3; 1945 c 113 s 1; 1951 c 39 s 1, 2; 1951 c 587 s 1; 1951 c 588 s 1-4; 1953 c 65 s 1, 2; 1955 c 47 s 1; 1957 c 62 s 1; 1957 c 923 s 3; 1957 c 944 s 1; 1959 c 62 s 1, 2] (2720-275)

**169.84 LOAD LIMIT ON BRIDGES.** Subject to the limitations upon wheel and axle loads prescribed in this chapter, the gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles driven onto or over a bridge on any highway shall not exceed the safe capacity of the bridge, as may be indicated by warning posted on the bridge or the approaches thereto.

[1937 c 464 s 126; 1953 c 22 s 1] (2720-276)

**169.85 WEIGHING.** Any police officer having reason to believe that the weight of a vehicle and load is unlawful is authorized to require the driver to stop and submit to a weighing of the same either by means of portable or stationary scales, and may require that such vehicle be driven to the nearest public scales in the event such scales are within five miles.

When an officer, upon weighing a vehicle and load, as above provided, determines that the weight on any axle exceeds the lawful gross weight as prescribed by section 169.83, by 2,000 pounds or more, or when the weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles in cases where the distance between the centers of the first and last axles of the group under consideration is ten feet or less exceeds the lawful gross weight as prescribed by section 169.83, by 4,000 pounds or more and in all cases when the weight is unlawful on any axle or group of consecutive axles on any road restricted in accordance with section 169.87, he may require the driver to stop the vehicle in a suitable place and remain standing until such portion of the load is removed as may be necessary to reduce the gross weight of such vehicle to such limit as permitted under this chapter. All material so unloaded shall be cared for by the owner or driver of such vehicle at the risk of such owner or driver.

Any driver of a vehicle who fails or refuses to stop and submit the vehicle and load to a weighing, or who fails or refuses, when directed by an officer upon



a weighing of the vehicle, to stop the vehicle and otherwise comply with the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[1937 c 464 s 127; 1951 c 212 s 1; 1953 c 719 s 1] (2720-277)

**169.86 SPECIAL PERMITS.** Subdivision 1. **Applying for.** The commissioner, with respect to highways under his jurisdiction, and local authorities, with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, may, in their discretion, upon application in writing and good cause being shown therefor, issue a special permit, in writing, authorizing the applicant to move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified in this chapter, or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, upon any highway under the jurisdiction of the party granting such permit and for the maintenance of which such party is responsible.

Subd. 2. **Required information.** The application for any such permit shall specifically describe the vehicle or vehicles and loads to be moved and the particular highways for which permit to so use is requested, and the period of time for which such permit is requested.

Subd. 3. **Discretion to issue or withhold; conditions of operation; liability insurance.** The commissioner or local authority is authorized to issue or withhold such permit at his discretion; or, if such permit is issued, to limit or prescribe conditions of operation of such vehicle or vehicles, when necessary to assure against undue damage to the road foundations, surfaces or structures, and may require such undertaking or other security as may be deemed necessary to compensate for any injury or damage to any roadway or road structure, and in addition may require that the operator or owner of such vehicle or vehicles have in effect with respect to the operation of such vehicle or vehicles a policy of liability insurance or bond affording substantially the same coverage with respect to injury to persons and damage to property as is required for proof of financial responsibility under the safety responsibility act.

Subd. 4. **Display and inspection of permit.** Every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any police officer or authorized agent of any authority granting such permit, and no person shall violate any of the terms or conditions of such special permit.

[1937 c 464 s 128; 1943 c 226 s 4; 1953 c 307 s 1] (2720-278)

**169.87 SEASONAL LOAD RESTRICTIONS.** Subdivision 1. **Optional power.** Local authorities, with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, may prohibit the operation of vehicles upon any such highway or impose restrictions as to the weight of vehicles to be operated upon any such highway, whenever any such highway, by reason of deterioration, rain, snow, or other climatic conditions, will be seriously damaged or destroyed unless the use of vehicles thereon is prohibited or the permissible weights thereof reduced.

The local authority enacting any such prohibition or restriction shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained signs plainly indicating the prohibition or restriction at each end of that portion of any highway affected thereby, and the prohibition or restriction shall not be effective unless and until such signs are erected and maintained.

Municipalities, with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, may also, by ordinance, prohibit the operation of trucks or other commercial vehicles, or may impose limitations as to the weight thereof, on designated highways, which prohibitions and limitations shall be designated by appropriate signs placed on such highways.

The commissioner shall likewise have authority, as hereinabove granted to local authorities, to determine and to impose prohibitions or restrictions as to the weight of vehicles operated upon any highway under the jurisdiction of the commissioner, and such restrictions shall be effective when signs giving notice thereof are erected upon the highway or portion of any highway affected by such action.

Subd. 2. **Seasonal load restrictions.** Except where restrictions are imposed as provided in subdivision 1, no person shall operate any vehicle or combination of vehicles upon any county or town road during the period between March 20 and May 15 of each year where the gross weight on any single axle, as defined in Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 169.83, exceeds 8,000 pounds; provided, that there shall be excepted and exempted from the provisions of this section emergency vehicles

of public utilities used incidental to making repairs to its plant or equipment; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to roads paved with cement concrete. Subdivision 2 shall apply only to county and town roads located westerly and southerly of the following described line: beginning at a point on the south shore of Lake of the Woods, thence southerly along the Westerly borders of Lake of the Woods and Beltrami counties to the intersection with State Trunk Highway No. 2, thence easterly and southeasterly along State Trunk Highway No. 2 to Duluth.

[1937 c 464 s 129; 1947 c 505 s 1; 1949 c 695 s 1; 1951 c 445 s 1] (2720-279)

**169.88 DAMAGES; LIABILITY.** Any person driving any vehicle, object, or contrivance upon any highway or highway structure shall be liable for all damage which the highway or highway structure may sustain as a result of any illegal operation, driving, or moving of such vehicle, object, or contrivance, or as a result of operation, driving or moving any vehicle, object, or contrivance weighing in excess of the maximum weight in this chapter but authorized by a special permit issued as provided in sections 169.80 to 169.88.

When such driver is not the owner of such vehicle, object, or contrivance, but is so operating, driving, or moving the same with the express or implied permission of the owner, then the owner and driver shall be jointly and severally liable for any such damage.

Such damage may be recovered in a civil action brought by the authorities in control of such highway or highway structure.

[1937 c 464 s 130] (2720-280)

**169.89 PENALTIES.** Subdivision 1. **Violation.** It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any provision of this chapter unless the violation is a gross misdemeanor or a felony.

Subd. 2. **Driver's record.** When a person is arrested for a violation of any provision of this chapter, or a violation of any provision of a city or village ordinance regulating traffic, the court before whom the matter is heard shall determine the driver's record of the person from the commissioner before pronouncing sentence and the expense incident to the procurement of this information is taxable as costs upon the conviction.

[1937 c 464 s 131; 1939 c 430 s 27; 1947 c 428 s 34] (2720-281)

**169.90 OFFENSES.** Subdivision 1. Every person who commits or attempts to commit, conspires to commit, or aids or abets in the commission of, any act declared herein to be a crime, whether individually or in connection with one or more other persons or as principal, agent, or accessory, shall be guilty of such offense, and every person who falsely, fraudulently, forcibly, or wilfully induces, causes, coerces, requires, permits, or directs another to violate any provision of this chapter, is likewise guilty of such offense.

Subd. 2. It is unlawful for the owner, or any other person, employing or otherwise directing the driver of any vehicle to require or knowingly to permit the operation of such vehicle upon a highway in any manner contrary to law.

Subd. 3. Anyone violating the provisions of section 169.42 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[1937 c 464 s 132, 133; 1951 c 663 s 2] (2720-282, 2720-283)

**169.901 EMPLOYMENT OF INTEMPERATE DRIVERS.** No person owning or having control of a coach or vehicle traveling upon any road for the conveyance of passengers shall employ any person to drive the same who is addicted to the excessive use of intoxicating liquors.

Every person who violates any provision of this section shall forfeit for each offense such sum as the court shall fix, not exceeding \$50 and be liable to any party injured for all damages sustained by reason of such offense; provided, that complaint for such violation be made within three months, and every action for damages shall be begun within one year, thereafter.

[1913 c 235 s 66] (2622)

**169.91 ARRESTS.** Subdivision 1. **Procedure.** When any person is arrested for any violation of this chapter punishable as a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony, the arrested person shall be taken into custody and immediately taken before a magistrate within the county in which the offense charged is alleged to have been committed and who has jurisdiction of such offenses and is nearest or most accessible with reference to the place where the arrest is made, in any of the following cases:

- (1) When a person arrested demands an immediate appearance before a magistrate;
- (2) When a person is arrested and charged with an offense under this chapter causing or contributing to an accident resulting in injury or death to any person;
- (3) When the person is arrested upon a charge of negligent homicide;
- (4) When the person is arrested upon a charge of driving or operating or being in actual physical control of any motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs;
- (5) When the person is arrested upon a charge of failure to stop in the event of an accident causing death, personal injuries, or damage to property;
- (6) When there is reasonable cause for believing that the person arrested may leave the state;
- (7) In any other event when the person arrested refused to give his written promise to appear in court, as hereinafter provided.

**Subd. 2. Notice to appear.** When a person is arrested for any violation of this chapter or any other law relating to motor vehicles, their registration or the operation thereof, or the use of the highways, punishable as a misdemeanor, and is not taken into custody and immediately taken before a magistrate, the arresting officer shall prepare, in duplicate, written notice to appear in court. The notice shall contain the name and address of the person arrested, his drivers license, or chauffeur's license number, the license number of his vehicle, the offense charged, and the time when and the place he is to appear in court. This place must be before a magistrate within the county in which the offense charged is alleged to have been committed who has jurisdiction and is nearest or most accessible with reference to the place of arrest.

In order to secure release, as provided in this section, the arrested person must give his written promise so to appear in court by signing, in duplicate, the written notice prepared by the arresting officer. The officer shall retain the original of the notice and deliver a copy thereof to the person arrested. Thereupon, the officer shall release the person arrested from custody.

NOTE: Subdivision 2 is repealed effective when uniform traffic ticket is mandatory under Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.99, Subdivision 2. See Extra Session Laws 1961, Chapter 19, Section 6.

**Subd. 3. Notice to appear.** When a person is arrested for any violation of this chapter or any other law relating to motor vehicles, their registration or the operation thereof, or the use of the highways, the arresting officer shall prepare, in quadruplicate, written notice to appear in court. This place must be before a magistrate within the county in which the offense charged is alleged to have been committed who has jurisdiction and is nearest or most accessible with reference to the place of arrest.

In order to secure release, if the arrested person is eligible for release, without being taken into custody and immediately taken before a magistrate, as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.91, and acts amendatory thereof, the arrested person must give his written promise so to appear in court by signing, in quadruplicate, the written notice prepared by the arresting officer. The officer shall retain the original of the notice and deliver the copy thereof marked "SUMMONS" to the person arrested. Thereupon, the officer shall release the person arrested from custody.

NOTE: This subdivision is effective when uniform traffic ticket is mandatory under Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.99, Subdivision 2. See Extra Session Laws 1961, Chapter 19, Section 6.

[1937 c 464 s 134, 135; 1939 c 430 s 28, 29; 1947 c 428 s 35; 1955 c 845 s 1; Ex1961 c 19 s 4, 5, 6] (2720-284, 2720-285)

**169.92 FAILURE TO APPEAR.** Any person wilfully violating his written promise to appear in court, given as provided in sections 169.90 to 169.95, is guilty of a misdemeanor, provided he is found guilty of the charge upon which he was originally arrested.

A written promise to appear in court may be complied with by an appearance by counsel.

[1937 c 464 s 136] (2720-286)

**169.93 ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT.** The provisions of sections 169.90 to 169.95 shall govern all police officers in making arrests without a warrant for violations of this chapter for offenses committed in their presence, but the procedure prescribed herein shall not otherwise be exclusive of any other method prescribed by law for the arrest and prosecution of a person for an offense of like grade.

[1937 c 464 s 137] (2720-287)

**169.94 RECORD OF CONVICTION.** Subdivision 1. **Not admissible as evidence.** No record of the conviction of any person for any violation of this chapter shall be admissible as evidence in any court in any civil action.

Subd. 2. **Not to affect credibility as witness.** The conviction of a person upon a charge of violating any provision of this chapter or other traffic regulation less than a felony shall not affect or impair the credibility of such person as a witness in any civil or criminal proceeding.

[1937 c 464 s 138, 139] (2720-288, 2720-289)

**169.95 COURTS TO KEEP SEPARATE RECORDS OF VIOLATIONS.** Every magistrate or judge of a court not of record, and every clerk of a court of record, shall keep a full record of every case in which a person is charged with any violation of this chapter or of any other law, or city or village ordinance, regulating the operation of vehicles on highways.

Within ten days after the conviction or forfeiture of bail of a person upon a charge of violating any provisions of this chapter or other law, or city or village ordinance, regulating the operation of vehicles on highways, every magistrate of the court, or clerk of the court of record in which such conviction was had or bail was forfeited, shall prepare and immediately forward to the department an abstract of the record of the court covering the case in which the person was so convicted or forfeited bail, which abstract must be certified by the person so required to prepare the same to be true and correct.

The abstract must be made upon a form furnished by the department, and shall include the name and address of the party charged, the driver's license number or chauffeur's license number of the person involved, the nature of the offense, the date of hearing, the plea, the judgment, or whether bail forfeited, and the amount of the fine or forfeiture, as the case may be.

Every court of record shall also forward a like report to the department upon the conviction of any person of manslaughter or other felony in the commission of which a vehicle was used.

The failure, refusal, or neglect of any such judicial officer to comply with any of the requirements of this section shall constitute misconduct in the office and shall be ground for removal therefrom.

[1937 c 464 s 140] (2720-290)

**169.96 INTERPRETATION AND EFFECT.** This chapter shall be interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

In all civil actions, a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, by either or any of the parties to such action or actions shall not be negligence per se but shall be prima facie evidence of negligence only.

[1937 c 464 s 141; 1939 c 430 s 30] (2720-291)

**169.965 REGENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TO REGULATE TRAFFIC.** Subdivision 1. The regents of the University of Minnesota may, from time to time, make, adopt and enforce such rules, regulations or ordinances as it may find expedient or necessary relating to the regulation of traffic pursuant to the highway traffic regulation act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 169, as amended, upon highways, streets, private roads and roadways situated on property owned, leased or occupied by the regents of the University of Minnesota or the University of Minnesota.

Subd. 2. Any person violating such rule, regulation or ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in jail or the workhouse for not more than 90 days, or by a fine of not more than \$100.

Subd. 3. The prosecution may be before any municipal court or justice of the peace having jurisdiction over the place where the violation occurs.

Subd. 4. Every sheriff, constable, police officer or other peace officer shall see that all rules, regulations and ordinances are obeyed, and shall arrest and prosecute offenders.

Subd. 5. The regents of the University of Minnesota is hereby authorized to appoint and employ, and fix the compensation to be paid out of funds of the regents of the University of Minnesota, persons who shall have and may exercise on property owned, leased or occupied by the regents of the University of Minnesota or the University of Minnesota the same powers of arrest for violation of rules, regulations or ordinances adopted by the regents of the University of

Minnesota pursuant to the highway traffic regulation act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 169, as amended, as possessed by a sheriff, constable, police officer or peace officer.

Subd. 6. All persons shall take notice of such rules, regulations, and ordinances without pleading and proof of the same.

Subd. 7. The regents of the University of Minnesota shall fix a date for a public hearing on the adoption of any such proposed rule, regulation or ordinance. Notice of such hearing shall be published in a legal newspaper in the county in which the property affected by the rule, regulation or ordinance is located. The publication shall be at least 15 days and not more than 45 days before the date of the hearing.

If, after the public hearing, the proposed rule, regulation or ordinance shall be adopted by a majority of the members of the board of regents of the University of Minnesota, the same shall be considered to have been enacted by the regents of the University of Minnesota. A copy of the same shall be signed by the president, attested by the secretary and filed with the secretary of state of the State of Minnesota, together with proof of publication. Upon such filing, the rule, regulation or ordinance, as the case may be, shall thenceforth be in full force and effect.

[1957 c 456 s 1-7]

**169.966 STATE COLLEGE BOARD TO REGULATE TRAFFIC.** Subdivision 1. The state college board may from time to time make, adopt, and enforce such rules, regulations, or ordinances not inconsistent with the Highway Traffic Regulation Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 169, as amended, as it may find expedient or necessary relating to the regulation of traffic and parking upon private roads and roadways situated on property owned, leased, or occupied by state colleges.

Subd. 2. Any person violating such rule, regulation, or ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in jail or the workhouse for not more than 90 days, or by a fine of not more than \$100.

Subd. 3. The prosecution may be before any municipal court or justice of the peace having jurisdiction over the place where the violation occurs.

Subd. 4. Every sheriff, constable, police officer, or other peace officer shall see that all rules, regulations, and ordinances are obeyed and shall arrest and prosecute offenders.

Subd. 5. The state college board may appoint and employ, and fix the compensation to be paid out of funds which may be available for such purposes, persons who shall have and may exercise on property owned, leased, or occupied by the state colleges the same powers of arrest for violation of rules, regulations, or ordinances adopted by the board as possessed by a sheriff, constable, police officer, or peace officer.

Subd. 6. All persons shall take notice of such rules, regulations, and ordinances without pleading and proof of the same.

Subd. 7. The state college board shall fix a date for a public hearing on the adoption of any such proposed rule, regulation, or ordinance. Notice of such hearing shall be published in a legal newspaper in the county in which the property affected by the rule, regulation, or ordinance is located. The publication shall be at least 15 days and not more than 45 days before the date of the hearing.

If, after the public hearing, the proposed rule, regulation, or ordinance shall be adopted by a majority of the members of the board, the same shall be considered to have been enacted by the board. A copy of the same shall be signed by the president and filed with the secretary of state, together with proof of publication. Upon such filing, the rule, regulation, or ordinance, as the case may be, shall thenceforth be in full force and effect.

[1961 c 278 s 1]

**169.97 CITATION; HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT.** This chapter shall be cited as the highway traffic regulation act.

[1937 c 464 s 142] (2720-292)

**169.98 POLICE OR PATROL VEHICLES, MARKINGS AND COLORS.** Subdivision 1. Except as provided in this subdivision, all motor vehicles which are primarily used in the enforcement of highway traffic regulations by any police department, highway patrol, or peace officer shall have uniform colors and markings as provided herein. The commissioner of highways by rule or regulation shall establish uniform colorings and markings for such motor vehicles which colors and markings shall be both distinctive and contrasting in appearance so

as to distinguish such motor vehicles from other motor vehicles and make them easily identifiable. The commissioner of highways may authorize the use of specially marked highway patrol vehicles, that have only a marking composed of a shield on the right door with the words inscribed thereon "Minnesota Highway Patrol" for primary use in the enforcement of highway traffic regulations when in his judgment the use of specially marked highway patrol vehicles will contribute to the safety of the traveling public. The number of such specially marked highway patrol vehicles used in the enforcement of highway traffic regulations shall not exceed 10 percent of the total number of highway patrol vehicles used in traffic law enforcement. All specially marked highway patrol vehicles shall be operated by uniformed members of the highway patrol and so equipped and operated as to clearly indicate to the driver of a car which is signaled to stop that the specially marked highway patrol vehicle is being operated by the highway patrol.

Subd. 2. Subdivision 1 shall apply to those motor vehicles used primarily in traffic law enforcement purchased subsequent to the effective date of Laws 1959, Chapter 554 and also subsequent to the effective date of any rules and regulations that the commissioner shall establish pursuant to the purposes set forth in subdivision 1.

[1959 c 554 s 1, 2; 1961 c 458 s 1]

**169.99 UNIFORM TRAFFIC TICKET.** Subdivision 1. Except as provided in subdivision 3, there shall be a uniform ticket issued throughout the state by the police and peace officers or by any other person for violations of the highway traffic regulations, which are Minnesota Statutes 1957, Chapter 169 and acts amendatory thereof, and ordinances in conformity thereto. Such uniform traffic ticket shall be in the form and have the effect of a summons and complaint. There shall also be included on the uniform ticket a receipt in lieu of bail which, when signed by the defendant, shall be a guarantee by him of his appearance in the court having jurisdiction over the matter. The uniform traffic ticket shall consist of four parts, on paper sensitized so that copies may be made without the use of carbon paper, as follows:

(1) The complaint, with reverse side for officer's notes for testifying in court, driver's past record, and court's action, printed on white paper;

(2) The abstract of court record for the department of highways, which shall be a copy of the complaint with the certificate of conviction on the reverse side, printed on yellow paper;

(3) The police record, which shall be a copy of the complaint and of the reverse side of copy (1), printed on pink paper;

(4) The summons, with, on the reverse side, such information as the court may wish to give concerning the traffic violations bureau, and a plea of guilty and waiver, printed on off-white tag stock.

Subd. 2. The attorney general shall by rule or regulation promulgated in the manner provided by law prescribe the detailed form of the uniform traffic ticket, and shall revise the uniform ticket on such subsequent occasions as he deems necessary and proper to keep the uniform ticket in conformity with highway traffic regulations. In the manner provided by law the attorney general shall give notice to all interested parties of a hearing to be held prior to the promulgation of the uniform traffic ticket or any changes therein. The uniform traffic ticket shall not be in mandatory use throughout the state until 18 months after the attorney general has first promulgated the uniform traffic ticket and the attorney general shall enforce the uniformity of the promulgated traffic ticket throughout the state.

Subd. 3. Any city of the first class, through its governing body, may alter by deletion or addition the uniform traffic ticket in such manner as it deems advisable for use in such city.

[Ex1961 c 19 s 1-3]