

MINNESOTA STATUTES 1977 SUPPLEMENT

169.01 HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION

CHAPTER 169. HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION

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169.01 Definitions.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 4. **Motorcycle.** "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a seat or 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, other than those vehicles defined as motorized bicycles in subdivision 4a, but excluding a tractor.

Subd. 4a. **Motorized bicycle.** "Motorized bicycle" means a bicycle with fully operatable pedals which may be propelled by human power or a motor, or by both, with a motor of a capacity of less than 50 cubic centimeters piston displacement, and a maximum of two brake horsepower, which is capable of a maximum speed of not more than 30 miles per hour on a flat surface with not more than one percent grade in any direction when the motor is engaged.

[For text of subds 5 to 60, see M.S.1976]

[1977 c 214 s 6,7]

169.09 Accidents.

[For text of subds 1 to 6, see M.S.1976]

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 \$300 or more, shall forward a written report of the accident to the commissioner of public safety within ten days thereof. If, in the opinion of the commissioner of public safety, 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.

[For text of subds 8 to 14, see M.S.1976]

[1977 c 53 s 1]

169.123 Chemical tests for intoxication.

Subdivision 1. **Peace officer defined.** For purposes of this section and section 169.121, subdivision 2, the term peace officer means a state highway patrol officer, university of Minnesota peace officer, or full time police officer of any municipality, including towns having powers under section 368.01, or county having satisfactorily completed a prescribed course of instruction in a school for instruction of persons

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in law enforcement conducted by the University of Minnesota or a similar course considered equivalent by the commissioner of public safety.

[For text of subds 2 to 8, see M.S.1976]

[1977 c 82 s 2]

169.132 [Repealed, 1977 c 347 s 29]

169.145 Implements of husbandry; speed; penalty.

No person shall drive a self-propelled implement of husbandry, nor shall any person tow a self-propelled implement of husbandry, at a speed in excess of 30 miles per hour. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

[1977 c 397 s 1]

169.223 Motorized bicycles.

Subdivision 1. Except as provided in this section the provisions of section 169.221 relating to the operation of bicycles on roadways are applicable to the operation of motorized bicycles.

Subd. 2. Motorized bicycles shall not be operated on any bicycle way or bicycle lane, as those terms are defined in section 160.263.

Subd. 3. No person shall operate a motorized bicycle upon a sidewalk at any time, except when such operation is necessary for the most direct access to a roadway from a driveway, alley or building.

Subd. 4. Every motorized bicycle shall be subject to the same requirements as to lighting and brake equipment as apply to motorcycles, except that the provisions of section 169.974, subdivision 5, clause (i), shall not apply to motorized bicycles.

[1977 c 214 s 8]

169.305 Controlled access regulations and penalties.

Subdivision 1. (a) No person shall drive a vehicle onto or from any controlled access highway 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 transportation may by order, and any public authority may by ordinance, with respect to any controlled access highway under their jurisdictions prohibit or regulate the use of any such highway by pedestrians, bicycles, or other nonmotorized traffic, or by motorized bicycles, or by any class or kind of traffic which is found to be incompatible with the normal and safe flow of traffic.

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

[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.1976]

[1977 c 214 s 9]

169.342 Good samaritan; exception to stopping and parking.

A person who stops or parks his motor vehicle on any highway or street for the sole purpose of aiding another motorist who signals for assistance by raising the hood of the vehicle or displaying a flag, flare or similar signal is not in violation of any law, ordinance, or regulation prohibiting the stopping or parking of a motor vehicle, and no peace officer shall issue a traffic ticket therefor if:

(a) The motorist in distress is not already being given aid or assistance;

(b) The person takes reasonable safety precautions in stopping and parking

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his vehicle, and conforms with other laws regulating the stopping and parking of vehicles;

(c) The person is not in violation of traffic laws or regulations other than the prohibition against stopping and parking; and

(d) The person promptly leaves the scene if directed to leave by a peace officer.

This section does not apply to any person who stops or parks a vehicle next to an unattended vehicle.

[1977 c 167 s 1]

169.345 Parking privileges for physically handicapped.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 2. Definition of physically handicapped. Physically handicapped as employed herein shall include any person who has sustained an amputation or material disability of either or both arms or legs, or who has been otherwise disabled in any manner rendering it difficult and burdensome for him to walk.

Subd. 3. Identifying certificate. The motor vehicles division in the department of public safety shall issue without charge a special identifying certificate or insignia for a marked motor vehicle to any physically handicapped applicant upon submission by the applicant of a certificate by a qualified physician to the division that he is a physically handicapped person within the meaning of subdivision 2.

The commissioner of public safety shall determine the form, size and promulgate rules and regulations governing their issuance and use necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The physician's certificate shall specify whether the disability is permanent or temporary, and if temporary, the opinion of the physician as to the duration of the disability. The commissioner may issue special identifying certificates or insignia to temporarily physically handicapped persons for limited periods of time.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1976]

[1977 c 22 s 1,2]

169.346 Parking for physically handicapped; prohibitions; penalties.

Subdivision 1. No person shall park a motor vehicle in a parking space designated and reserved for the physically handicapped, on either private or public property, unless:

(a) That person is physically handicapped in a manner rendering it difficult, dangerous or impossible for the person to walk, or the person was operating the vehicle under the direction of a person who is physically handicapped in this manner; and

(b) The vehicle visibly displays the certificate or insignia issued to physically handicapped persons by the department of public safety pursuant to sections 169.345, subdivision 3, or 168.021.

Subd. 2. Handicapped parking spaces shall be designated and identified by the posting of signs incorporating the international symbol of access in white on blue and indicating that the parking space is reserved for the handicapped with vehicles displaying the required certificate. The posting of signs shall be in accordance with the state building code established by rule of the commissioner of administration pursuant to section 16.85, when the location of the parking spaces on public or private lands is within the purview of the state building code, and in accordance with the manual on uniform traffic control devices adopted by the commissioner of transportation pursuant to section 169.06, when the parking spaces are on streets and highways.

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Subd. 3. Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision 1 shall be fined \$10. This subdivision shall be enforced in the same manner as parking ordinances or regulations are enforced in the governmental subdivision in which the violation occurs. A handicapped person charged with violating subdivision 1 because he parked in a handicapped parking space without the required certificate or insignia shall not be convicted if he produces in court or prior to the court appearance the required certificate or insignia and demonstrates that he was entitled to the certificate or insignia at the time of arrest or tagging.

[1977 c 205 s 1]

169.79 Vehicle registration.

No person shall operate, drive or park a motor vehicle on any highway unless the vehicle is registered in accordance with the laws of this state and has the number plates for the current year only, as assigned to it by the commissioner of public safety, conspicuously displayed thereon in a manner that the view of any plate is not obstructed. If the vehicle is a motorcycle, motor scooter, motorized bicycle, motorcycle sidecar, trailer, or semitrailer, one such plate shall be displayed on the rear thereof; if the vehicle is a truck-tractor or road-tractor, one such plate shall be displayed on the front thereof; if it is any other kind of motor vehicle, one such plate shall be displayed on the front and one on the rear thereof. All plates shall be securely fastened so as to prevent them from swinging. The person driving the motor vehicle shall keep the plate legible and unobstructed and free from grease, dust, or other blurring material so that the lettering shall be plainly visible at all times.

[1977 c 248 s 4]

NOTE: This section as amended by Laws 1977, Chapter 248, Section 4 is effective November 15, 1980 for the vehicle registration year 1981, and subsequent years, pursuant to Laws 1977, Chapter 248, Section 12.

169.80 Size, weight, load.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1976]

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, or a vehicle owned by a political subdivision and used exclusively for the purpose of handling sewage sludge from sewage treatment facilities to farm fields, shall not exceed 12 feet, and except as otherwise provided in this section.

A vehicle owned by a political subdivision and used exclusively for the purpose of transporting sewage sludge to farm fields shall not be operated outside a 15 mile radius of the supply facilities, nor shall it be operated between the hours of sunset and sunrise, or at any other time when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog or other conditions rendering persons and vehicles not clearly discernible on the highway at a distance of 500 feet.

The total outside width of a low bed trailer or equipment dolly, and the load thereon, used exclusively for transporting farm machinery and construction equipment shall not exceed nine feet in width except that any such low bed trailer or equipment dolly with a total outside width, including the load thereon, in excess of eight feet shall not be operated on any interstate highway without first having obtained a permit for such operation pursuant to section 169.86. The vehicle shall display 12 inch square red flags as markers at the front and rear of the left side of the vehicle.

The total outside width of a trackless trolley car or passenger motor bus, operated exclusively in any city, or contiguous cities 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. A passenger motor bus, not exceeding eight and

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one-half feet in width, may operate between the separated facilities of a college or university if part of the facilities are located within one of the foregoing areas and part are located outside but not more than five miles from the area.

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.

[For text of subds 2a and 3, see M.S.1976]

[1977 c 150 s 1]

169.81 Height and length limitation.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 3. **Length of combinations and semitrailers and truck-tractors.** (a) No combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load, including truck-tractor and semitrailers, shall consist of more than two units unless such combination consists of a truck-tractor and semitrailer drawing one additional semitrailer equipped with an auxiliary dolly, and no combination of vehicles shall exceed a total length of 60 feet, provided that this limitation shall not apply to the transportation of telegraph poles, telephone poles, electric light and power poles, piling, or pole length pulpwood, and subject to the following further exceptions: Said length limitations shall not apply to 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. Mount combinations may be drawn but such combinations may not exceed 60 feet in length. Said limitation on the number of units shall not apply to vehicles used for transporting milk from point of production to point of first processing, in which case no combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load, including truck-tractor and semitrailers, shall consist of more than three units and no such combination of vehicles shall exceed a total length of 60 feet. For the purpose of registration, trailers coupled with a truck-tractor, semitrailer combination shall be considered the same as semitrailers. The state, as to state trunk highways, and any city 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. Combinations of vehicles authorized by this subdivision may be restricted as to the use of highways by the commissioner, as to state trunk highways, and any road authority, as to highways or streets subject to its jurisdiction. Nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to alter or change the authority vested in local authorities under the provisions of section 169.04. This subdivision shall not apply to the operation of combinations of vehicles subject to the provisions of section 169.861.

(b) No single semitrailer or trailer shall have an overall length, exclusive of rear protective bumpers which do not increase the overall length by more than six inches and further exclusive of any accessory equipment mounted or located on the end of the semitrailer or trailer adjacent to the truck or truck-tractor, in excess of 45 feet, except for those semitrailers governed by subdivisions 3a and 7. For purposes of determining compliance with the provisions of this subdivision, the length of the semitrailer or trailer shall be determined separate from the overall length of the combination of vehicles.

[For text of subds 3a to 9, see M.S.1976]

[1977 c 113 s 1]

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169.83 Weight limitations.

Subdivision 1. **Pneumatic-tired vehicles.** Except as provided in section 169.832, 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. The limitations provided in this section shall be increased statewide by 20 percent from January 1 through March 7 each winter for haulers of raw and unfinished forest products; and further, this 20 percent increase is authorized from December 1 through December 31 each winter for haulers of raw and unfinished forest products, subject to limitation by order of the commissioner of transportation, in the zone 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 along Trunk Highway No. 61 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 210; thence westerly along Trunk Highway No. 210 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 10; thence northwesterly along Trunk Highway No. 10 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 59; thence northerly along Trunk Highway No. 59 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 43W to the Minnesota-Canadian Border; thence easterly along said Border to Lake Superior.

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

[For text of subd 1a, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 2. **Gross weight schedule.** (1) Except as provided in section 169.832, 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:

| Distances in feet between centers of foremost and rearmost axles of a group | Maximum gross weight in pounds on a group of | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | consecutive axles of a 2-axle vehicle or of any vehicle or combination of vehicles having a total of 3 or more axles | consecutive axles of a 3-axle vehicle or of any vehicle or combination of vehicles having a total of 3 or more axles | consecutive axles of a combination of vehicles having a total of 4 or more axles |

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| | | | |
|----|--------|--------|--------|
| 4 | 32,000 | | |
| 5 | 32,000 | | |
| 6 | 32,000 | | |
| 7 | 32,000 | 37,000 | |
| 8 | 33,000 | 38,500 | |
| 9 | 34,000 | 39,900 | |
| 10 | 35,000 | 41,200 | 42,500 |
| 11 | 36,000 | 42,400 | 44,300 |
| 12 | | 43,500 | 46,000 |
| 13 | | 44,500 | 47,600 |
| 14 | | 45,500 | 49,100 |
| 15 | | 46,500 | 50,500 |
| 16 | | 47,500 | 51,800 |
| 17 | | 48,500 | 53,000 |
| 18 | | 49,500 | 54,000 |
| 19 | | 50,500 | 54,500 |
| 20 | | 51,500 | 55,500 |
| 21 | | 52,200 | 56,000 |
| 22 | | 52,900 | 56,500 |
| 23 | | 53,600 | 57,500 |
| 24 | | 54,000 | 58,000 |
| 25 | | | 58,500 |
| 26 | | | 59,500 |
| 27 | | | 60,000 |
| 28 | | | 60,500 |
| 29 | | | 61,500 |
| 30 | | | 62,500 |
| 31 | | | 63,500 |
| 32 | | | 64,000 |

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 169.85, the gross vehicle weight of all axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed 73,280 pounds and the gross weight on any tandem axle shall not exceed 32,000 pounds.

(2) During the times and within the zone set forth in subdivision 1 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 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 800 shall be used where a group of two consecutive axles is under consideration, a coefficient of 860 shall be used where a group of three consecutive axles is under consideration; a coefficient of 900 shall be used where a group of four consecutive axles is under consideration; and a coefficient of 920 shall be used where a group of five or more consecutive axles is under consideration.

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

[For text of subds 2a to 6, see M.S.1976]

[1977 c 248 s 5,6; 1977 c 279 s 1]

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169.832 Weight limitations on interstate highways and designated routes.

Subdivision 1. **Application.** The provisions of this section apply on routes designated by the commissioner of transportation pursuant to subdivisions 11 and 12, and on all interstate highways.

Subd. 2. **Limitations.** No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires shall be operated upon the streets and highways of this state with a gross weight exceeding 10,000 pounds carried on any one wheel, including all enforcement tolerances; 20,000 pounds carried on any one axle, including all enforcement tolerances; 12,000 pounds on the steering axle of any truck tractor, except as provided in this subdivision, including all enforcement tolerances; or with a tandem axle weight in excess of 34,000 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances; or with an overall gross weight on a group of two or more consecutive axles produced by application of the following formula:

$$W = \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36$$

where W equals overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L equals distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and N equals number of axles in the group under consideration, except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more, provided that such overall gross weight may not exceed 80,000 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances. A truck tractor used in the transportation of motor vehicles or operated by a heavy specialized motor carrier as defined by the interstate commerce commission may exceed 12,000 pounds gross weight on the steering axle but shall in no event exceed 18,000 pounds gross weight on that axle.

Subd. 3. **Gross weight schedule.** The distance between the centers of the first and last axles of any group of two or more consecutive axles under consideration shall be 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.

The following table is based on the formula provided in subdivision 2.

COMPUTED GROSS WEIGHT TABLE
For various spacings of axle groupings

| Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive axles (wheelbases) | Weight Formula $W = \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36$ | | | | |
|--|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2 Axles | 3 Axles | 4 Axles | 5 Axles | 6 Axles |
| 4 | 34,000 | | | | |
| 5 | 35,000 | | | | |
| 6 | 36,000 | | | | |
| 7 | 37,000 | | | | |
| 8 | 38,000 | 42,000 | | | |
| 9 | 39,000 | 43,000 | | | |
| 10 | 40,000 | 43,500 | | | |
| 11 | | 44,500 | | | |
| 12 | | 45,000 | 50,000 | | |
| 13 | | 46,000 | 50,500 | | |
| 14 | | 46,500 | 51,500 | | |

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| | | | | |
|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 15 | 47,500 | 52,000 | | |
| 16 | 48,000 | 52,500 | 58,000 | |
| 17 | 49,000 | 53,500 | 58,500 | |
| 18 | 49,500 | 54,000 | 59,500 | |
| 19 | 50,500 | 54,500 | 60,000 | |
| 20 | 51,000 | 55,500 | 60,500 | 66,000 |
| 21 | 52,000 | 56,000 | 61,000 | 66,500 |
| 22 | 52,500 | 56,500 | 62,000 | 67,000 |
| 23 | 53,500 | 57,500 | 62,500 | 68,000 |
| 24 | 54,000 | 58,000 | 63,000 | 68,500 |
| 25 | 55,000 | 58,500 | 63,500 | 69,000 |
| 26 | 55,500 | 59,500 | 64,500 | 69,500 |
| 27 | 56,500 | 60,000 | 65,000 | 70,000 |
| 28 | 57,000 | 60,500 | 65,500 | 71,000 |
| 29 | 58,000 | 61,500 | 66,000 | 71,500 |
| 30 | 58,500 | 62,000 | 67,000 | 72,000 |
| 31 | 59,500 | 63,000 | 67,500 | 72,500 |
| 32 | 60,000 | 63,500 | 68,000 | 73,000 |
| 33 | | 64,000 | 68,500 | 74,000 |
| 34 | | 64,500 | 69,500 | 74,500 |
| 35 | | 65,500 | 70,000 | 75,000 |
| 36 | | 66,000 | 70,500 | 75,500 |
| 37 | | 66,500 | 71,000 | 76,000 |
| 38 | | 67,500 | 72,000 | 77,000 |
| 39 | | 68,000 | 72,500 | 77,500 |
| 40 | | 68,500 | 73,000 | 78,000 |
| 41 | | 69,500 | 73,500 | 78,500 |
| 42 | | 70,000 | 74,500 | 79,000 |
| 43 | | 70,500 | 75,000 | 80,000 |
| 44 | | 71,500 | 75,500 | |
| 45 | | 72,000 | 76,000 | |
| 46 | | 72,500 | 77,000 | |
| 47 | | 73,500 | 77,500 | |
| 48 | | 74,000 | 78,000 | |
| 49 | | 74,500 | 78,500 | |
| 50 | | 75,500 | 79,500 | |
| 51 | | 76,000 | 80,000 | |

The permissible loads are rounded up to the nearest 500 pounds.

Notwithstanding any lesser weight in pounds shown in this table, two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each and a combined gross load of 68,000 pounds provided the overall distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more.

Subd. 4. **Raw and unfinished wood products.** Except on interstate highways, the limitations provided in this section shall be increased by ten percent for haulers of raw and unfinished wood products during the times and within the zones specified in section 169.83, subdivision 1, clause 3.

Subd. 5. **Effect of other weight restrictions.** In all cases where gross weights in an amount less than those permitted under this section are fixed, limited or restricted on any highway or bridge by or pursuant to any other section of this chapter except section 169.83 such lesser gross weights as so fixed, limited or restricted shall not be exceeded and shall control instead of the gross weights permitted under this section.

Subd. 6. **Single wheel defined.** For the purposes of subdivision 2, two or more wheels less than 48 inches apart on an axle shall be deemed a single wheel; provided that two or more wheels less than 48 inches apart on an axle on vehicles in operation and registered in this state on November 13, 1971, shall be counted as separate wheels.

Subd. 7. **Combined vehicles, consecutive axle weight.** For the purposes of the gross weight table in subdivision 3, the maximum gross weight in pounds on a group of four consecutive axles of any combination of vehicles having a total of

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four or more axles shall also apply to four consecutive axles of any vehicle, and no vehicle alone, nor any vehicle of a combination of vehicles, shall be equipped with more than four axles; provided that the limitation on the number of axles as herein provided shall not apply to any vehicle operated under permit pursuant to section 169.86.

Subd. 8. 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. In no event shall the front steering axle of any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires exceed a gross weight of 18,000 pounds.

Subd. 9. 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 2, 3, and 8, except that the gross weight limitations shall be reduced by 40 percent.

Subd. 10. Exception. The provisions of this section shall not apply to vehicles operated exclusively in any city in this state which has in force and effect an ordinance regulating the gross weight of vehicles operated therein.

Subd. 11. Designation of routes. The commissioner may designate any street or highway route or segment of a route to carry the gross weights permitted under this section. Any designation of a route pursuant to this subdivision, other than a trunk highway route, is subject to the approval of the local authority having jurisdiction over the route. A route may not be designated if the commissioner finds that designation

- (a) creates an undue hazard to traffic safety; or
- (b) is inconsistent with structural capacity of the route, including consideration of the volume of traffic expected to occur on the route after designation.

Notwithstanding any finding under clause (b), the commissioner shall designate any route which he determines is needed to provide

- (i) a connection between significant centers of population or commerce, or between other designated routes; or
- (ii) access to a transportation terminal; or
- (iii) temporary emergency service to a particular shipping or receiving point on the route.

The commissioner may undesignate any route when continued designation is inconsistent with the provisions of this subdivision, subject to the approval of any local authority having jurisdiction over the route.

Except as provided in subdivision 12, any route designation or undesignation shall be effective when proposed and adopted as a rule in accordance with chapter 15. The commissioner shall propose the designation or undesignation of any route when requested by any local authority having jurisdiction over the route. The commissioner shall propose rules or amendments to rules for the purpose of route designation or undesignation only once in any calendar year.

Subd. 12. Emergency rule making power of commissioner. The commissioner may exercise emergency rule making power pursuant to section 15.0412, subdivision 5, to designate or undesignate a route to carry the gross weights permitted under this section, subject to the approval of any local authority having jurisdiction over the route, whenever the commissioner determines that an emergency transportation need requires such action.

[1977 c 248 s 7]

169.834 County weight enforcement report.

No later than January 15, 1979, the sheriff of each county shall file with the commissioner of transportation a report showing:

- (a) the number of scales operated by the sheriff to enforce vehicle weight limitations on highways in the county;
- (b) the number of vehicles or combinations of vehicles weighed by the sheriff during the preceding calendar year; and

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(c) the number of citations, if any, issued to vehicle operators violating the weight limitations provided in sections 169.83 or 169.832 during the preceding calendar year.

The report may include the number of convictions, as defined in section 171.01, subdivision 13, in the previous calendar year resulting from citations issued by the sheriff for violations of sections 169.83 or 169.832. The report shall be on a form provided by the commissioner.

[1977 c 248 s 8]

169.85 Weighing; penalty.

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. Official traffic control devices as authorized by section 169.06 may be used to direct the driver to the nearest scale. When any weigh station upon a trunk highway or interstate highway is open and signs giving notice of that fact are posted in accordance with section 169.06 and are not posted more than one mile from the weigh station, the driver of every vehicle or combination of vehicles registered for or weighing in excess of 11,000 pounds, except buses registered in this state, shall comply with the direction of the signs and submit the vehicle to weighing and inspection at the weigh station.

Upon weighing a vehicle and load, as provided above, an officer may require the driver to stop the vehicle in a suitable place and remain standing until a portion of the load is removed that is sufficient to reduce the gross weight of the vehicle to the limit permitted under sections 169.83 or 169.832, whichever applies. A driver may be required to unload a vehicle only if the weighing officer determines that (a) on routes subject to the provisions of section 169.83, the weight on any axle exceeds the lawful gross weight prescribed by section 169.83, by 2,000 pounds or more, or 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 prescribed by section 169.83, by 4,000 pounds or more; or (b) on routes subject to the provisions of section 169.832, the overall weight of the vehicle or the weight on any axle or group of consecutive axles exceeds the maximum lawful gross weights prescribed by section 169.832; or (c) the weight is unlawful on any axle or group of consecutive axles on any road restricted in accordance with section 169.87. 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 as required herein, 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.

[1977 c 248 s 9]

169.86 Special permits.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 1a. **Seasonal permits for certain haulers.** The commissioner of transportation, upon application in writing therefor, may issue special permits annually to any hauler of raw and unfinished forest products authorizing the hauler to move vehicles or combinations of vehicles with weights exceeding by not more than ten percent the weight limitations contained in section 169.832, on interstate highways during the times and within the zones specified in section 169.83, subdivision 1, clause 3.

In all cases where gross weights in an amount less than those permitted under this subdivision are fixed, limited or restricted on any interstate highway or

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bridge thereon by or pursuant to any other section of this chapter the lesser gross weights as so fixed, limited or restricted shall not be exceeded and shall control instead of the gross weights permitted under this subdivision.

[For text of subds 2 to 5, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 6. Articulated buses. Articulated buses operated by public transit operators may exceed the length and weight limitations of this chapter, subject only to an annual permit from the commissioner for such operation, and shall not be subject to any city ordinance or to any permit from any local road authority. The application for a permit shall contain such information as may be required by the commissioner.

[1977 c 248 s 10; 1977 c 454 s 17]

169.965 Regents of University of Minnesota to regulate traffic and parking.

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 and parking, upon parking facilities, 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.

[For text of subds 2 to 7, see M.S.1976]

[1977 c 82 s 3]

169.974 Motorcycles, motor scooters and motor bikes.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 2. License requirements. No person shall operate a motorcycle on any street or highway unless he has a valid standard driver's license with a two-wheeled vehicle endorsement as provided by law. No such two-wheeled vehicle endorsement shall be issued unless the person applying therefor has in possession a valid two-wheeled vehicle instruction permit as provided herein, has passed a written examination and road test administered by the department of public safety for such endorsement, and, in the case of applicants under 18 years of age, shall present a certificate or other evidence of having successfully completed an approved two-wheeled vehicle driver's safety course in this or another state, in accordance with such regulations as the commissioner of public safety shall promulgate. A two-wheeled vehicle instruction permit shall be issued to any person over 16 years of age, who is in possession of a valid driver's license, who is enrolled in an approved two-wheeled vehicle driver's safety course, and who has passed a written examination for such permit and has paid such fee as the commissioner of public safety shall prescribe. A two-wheeled vehicle instruction permit shall be effective for 45 days, and may be renewed under rules to be prescribed by the commissioner of public safety.

No person who is operating by virtue of a two-wheeled vehicle instruction permit shall:

(a) Carry any passengers on the streets and highways of this state on the motorcycle which he is operating;

(b) Drive the motorcycle at night time;

(c) Drive the motorcycle on any highway marked by the commissioner as an interstate highway pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code;

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(d) Drive the motorcycle without wearing protective headgear of a type approved by the commissioner of public safety.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, the commissioner of public safety may, however, issue a special motorcycle permit, restricted or qualified in such manner as he shall deem proper, to any person demonstrating a need therefor and unable to qualify for a standard driver's license.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 4. **Equipment for operators and passengers.** (a) No person under the age of 18 shall operate or ride a motorcycle on the streets and highways of this state, unless he is wearing protective headgear that complies with standards established by the commissioner of public safety; and no person shall operate a motorcycle unless he is wearing an eye-protective device except when the motorcycle is equipped with a wind screen.

(b) The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to persons during their participation in a parade for which parade a permit or other official authorization has been granted by a local governing body or other governmental authority or to persons riding within an enclosed cab.

[For text of subd 5, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 6. **Negligence; damages without protective headgear.** In an action to recover damages for negligence resulting in any head injury to an operator or passenger of a motorcycle, evidence of whether or not the injured person was wearing protective headgear of a type approved by the commissioner shall be admissible only with respect to the question of damages for head injuries. Damages for head injuries of any person who was not wearing protective headgear shall be reduced to the extent that those injuries could have been avoided by wearing protective headgear of a type approved by the commissioner. For the purposes of this subdivision "operator or passenger" means any operator or passenger regardless of whether that operator or passenger was required by law to wear protective headgear approved by the commissioner.

Subd. 7. **Noise limits.** After December 31, 1978, noise regulations adopted by the pollution control agency for motor vehicles pursuant to section 169.693 shall also apply to motorcycles.

[1977 c 17 s 1-4; 1977 c 134 s 1]

CHAPTER 171. DRIVERS LICENSES AND DRIVER TRAINING SCHOOLS

Sec.
171.01 Definitions.
171.02 License; surrender of other licenses.

Sec.
171.07 Department to issue license and nonqualification certificates; anatomical gift indication.

171.01 Definitions.

[For text of subds 1 to 16, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 17. "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a seat or 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 tractors and motorized bicycles.

[For text of subds 18 and 19, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 20. "Motorized bicycle" means a bicycle with fully operatable pedals