

CHAPTER 218

COMMON CARRIERS, RAIL TRANSPORTATION

218.031 Common carriers, duties.
218.041 Duties of transportation regulation board
and commissioner.

218.031 COMMON CARRIERS, DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. Except as otherwise directed or authorized, it shall be the duty of every common carrier:

(1) To prescribe in the first instance, and to publish upon not less than ten days' public notice in such manner as may be required by the commissioner and law, all schedules of fares, rates and charges and classifications thereof, together with the rules governing the same, and minimum weights for transportation of freight articles between points or stations in the state, and terminal and switching charges, provided there shall be but one classification applicable to any one commodity which shall be uniform on all railroads in this state and govern in all state commerce.

(2) To comply with every duly authorized rule, regulation or directive of the commissioner or board except as the same may be stayed, pending appeal therefrom.

(3) To put into effect and observe all schedules of rates, fares and charges and classifications and any amendments or changes therein duly ordered by the board, except as the same may be stayed, pending appeal.

(4) To maintain as may be directed by the commissioner for public inspection at stations and depots all schedules showing all classifications, rates, fares and charges for transportation of freight currently in force applying from such station. Such schedules shall state the places between which property will be carried and show the classification of freight, the distance tariff, a table of distances between stations, any terminal charges and any rules or regulations in any way affecting the aggregate of such rates, fares and charges.

(5) Upon request of an owner or consignor of freight to the initial company, whenever the initial line does not reach the place of destination, or the distance from the place of origin to destination may be shortened, to transfer such freight to a connecting line without change in cars if in carload lots, except such change be free of charge to the shipper and receiver; and to transfer with or without change in cars of less than carload lots at a reasonable joint through rate agreed upon by the connecting carriers or prescribed by the board, not greater than the maximum rates allowed by law, provided any unloading and reloading which is necessary shall be at cost and the charge for such transfer included in the joint rate.

(6) To provide the same switching, transfer and handling facilities for local as for interstate traffic.

(7) Upon written demand of the owner, to construct, maintain and operate side tracks and reasonable facilities connecting with any grain warehouse, dock, wharf, mill, coal yard, quarry, brick or lime kiln, sand or gravel pit, crushed rock or concrete plant or manufactory as may be required by the board, and on such terms as may be agreed upon, or, on failure of agreement, as may be prescribed by the board.

(8) To issue receipts or bills of lading covering all property received for transportation from any point in the state to any other point in the state, and to respond for any loss, damage or injury to such property caused by it or any carrier to whom such property may be delivered or over whose line it may pass, nor shall any contractual provision whatever exempt it from such liability.

(9) To refund all overcharges for freight, baggage or express, and pay for any loss, damage or injury to property while in its possession, within ninety (90) days after the filing of a claim for such over-charge, loss or damage.

(10) To keep its accounts so as to show, as far as practicable, the earnings derived from, and the expenses incurred in, handling intrastate business in such form as the commissioner shall prescribe, including the separation of accounts for each operating division, wholly or partly within the state. Such accounts shall show the total cost of operating through trains and the total cost of operating the local or distributing trains of each operating division, wholly or partly within the state, during the fiscal year to be fixed by the commissioner, the total number of tons of revenue and non-revenue freight, the number of tons of each carried one (1) mile on the through trains and on the local trains, respectively, the number of tons and ton miles of revenue and non-revenue freight carried on through or local trains which are exclusively intrastate, and the gross tons and ton miles made by through and local trains on each division. The accounts shall show the total revenue and non-revenue train and engine miles and the total revenue and non-revenue car miles (the non-revenue car miles to be shown loaded and empty separately) produced by such railroad in the state in each operating division, the number of each of the above train, engine and car mileage produced in handling the through trains and in handling the local trains, the total locomotive miles produced in switching on each division and such further information related to the income or cost of intrastate business as the commissioner may require. The commissioner may require such accounts to be kept with reference to the intrastate passenger business of each carrier and the train, car and engine mileage incurred in such business in this state as he may deem necessary.

(11) During pendency of any litigation, when rates prescribed by the board have not been put into effect, to keep a correct account of every charge made by it for any services to which such rates apply in excess of the rates prescribed, showing in each case the difference between the amount actually charged and the amount allowed to be charged, the date of the transaction, the stations between which the business was carried and the names and addresses of the consignor and consignee, and to report such information in full to the board on its request.

[For text of subs 2 to 10, see M.S.1980]

History: *1Sp1981 c 4 art 2 s 17*

NOTE: The amendment to subdivision 1 by First Special Session Laws 1981, Chapter 4, Article 2, Section 17 is effective July 1, 1981. See First Special Session Laws 1981, Chapter 4, Article 2, Section 25 and Laws 1980, Chapter 534, Section 87 as amended by Laws 1981, Chapter 357, Section 108.

218.041 DUTIES OF TRANSPORTATION REGULATION BOARD AND COMMISSIONER.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1980]

Subd. 2. The board shall, upon petition after hearing:

(1) Review and ascertain the reasonableness and equalities of all schedules of rates, fares and charges or any part or classification thereof, including joint through rates, and, if found unreasonable or discriminatory, establish new schedules and prescribe the form and manner of filing, posting and publication thereof.

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(2) Order the issuance of any franchises, permits or certificates of convenience and necessity.

(3) Prescribe schedules of reasonable maximum rates or charges for the transportation of freight and cars on each railroad, including the classification of such rates and rules governing the same, and revise the same from time to time.

(4) The board may unite two or more stations or commercial centers into a common rate point and may designate the classes of freight which shall take common rates, and fix the mileage that shall govern between the common rate point and any or all other points in the state. The distance so fixed shall not apply as a measure of the rate for the movement of the same class of freight for similar distances between other points.

(5) Prescribe a schedule of joint through railway rates for freight over two or more connecting lines of railway and revise the same from time to time. In so doing, the board shall consider, among other things, rates established for shipments within this state for like distances over single lines, rates charged by the railway companies operating such connecting lines for joint interstate shipments, and the increased cost, if any, of a joint through shipment as compared with a shipment over a single line for like distances. In establishing rates for shipments in less than carload lots, in cases where connecting railways are not required to have common stations or stopping place for loading or unloading freight at connecting points, the board shall regulate the transportation of such freight from the usual unloading place of one railway to the usual loading place of the other. The share of any railway company of any joint through rates shall not be construed to fix the charge that it may make for a similar distance over any part of its line for any single rate shipment, or the share of any other joint rate. Where the line of a railway company connects the point of shipment with the point of destination but would require a longer haul than a joint haul for which a joint rate has been established, the board may authorize charging the joint rate for the single haul without affecting the charge upon any other part of its line except that the charge for a like kind of property must not be greater for a shorter than for a longer distance upon that railroad, all of the shorter hauls being included within the longer.

(6) Define switching and drayage service to apply to the movement of traffic within and between points and fix reasonable maximum rates for the same, which shall be independent of any rates that may be made for line haul transportation. There shall be but one terminal charge for switching or transferring any car within any one municipality and, if it is necessary that any car in such transfer pass over the tracks of more than one railroad within such limits, the company first so transferring such car shall receive the entire charge therefor and be liable to each company doing subsequent switching for its just share of such charge as may be agreed upon among the companies, or, in the event of disagreement, as prescribed by the board.

[For text of subds 4 to 6, see M.S.1980]

Subd. 7. The board may upon its discretion and without hearing:

(1) Upon application by a carrier stating that it desires to establish a rate for a temporary period for the protection of the interest of the carriers or its shippers, authorize and establish the temporary rate, and extend the rate as the circumstances of the case may require, and permit the restoration of the rate existing at the time of the application without further proceedings.

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(2) Approve the establishment, change, or alteration of any rate, charge or classification, minimum rate, or rule governing the same, to which a common carrier is a party, upon application of the common carrier in writing, when the application appears to be noncontroversial.

(3) Authorize, on less than ten days' public notice, schedules containing classifications, rates, fares and charges for the transportation of freight and passengers.

(4) Retain general rate-making authority in intrastate transportation of livestock.

Subd. 8. The board, or the commissioner, as appropriate, may take action to promulgate rules in areas including, but not limited to the following: rates, routes, depots, schedules, quality of service, and safety requirements relating to intrastate rail passenger service.

History: *1Sp1981 c 4 art 2 s 18-20*

NOTE: Subdivision 3 is repealed by First Special Session Laws 1981, Chapter 4, Article 2, Section 24 effective July 1, 1983.

The amendments to subdivisions 2, 7 and 8 by First Special Session Laws 1981, Chapter 4, Article 2, Sections 18 to 20 are effective July 1, 1983. See First Special Session Laws 1981, Chapter 4, Article 2, Section 25 and Laws 1980, Chapter 534, Section 87 as amended by Laws 1981, Chapter 357, Section 108.