

CHAPTER 299D

STATE PATROL

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Subdivision 1. **Members, powers, and duties.** The commissioner is hereby authorized to employ and designate a chief supervisor, a chief assistant supervisor, and such assistant supervisors, sergeants and officers as are provided by law, who shall comprise the Minnesota state patrol. The members of the Minnesota state patrol shall have the power and authority:

- (1) As peace officers to enforce the provisions of the law relating to the protection of and use of trunk highways.
- (2) At all times to direct all traffic on trunk highways in conformance with law, and in the event of a fire or other emergency, or to expedite traffic or to insure safety, to direct traffic on other roads as conditions may require notwithstanding the provisions of law.
- (3) To serve search warrants related to criminal motor vehicle and traffic violations and arrest warrants, and legal documents anywhere in the state.
- (4) To serve orders of the commissioner of public safety or the commissioner's duly authorized agents issued under the provisions of the Drivers License Law, the Safety Responsibility Act, or relating to authorized brake and light testing stations, anywhere in the state and to take possession of any license, permit or certificate ordered to be surrendered.
- (5) To inspect official brake and light adjusting stations.
- (6) To make appearances anywhere within the state for the purpose of conducting traffic safety educational programs and school bus clinics.
- (7) To exercise upon all trunk highways the same powers with respect to the enforcement of laws relating to crimes, as sheriffs, constables and police officers.
- (8) To cooperate, under instructions and rules of the commissioner of public safety, with all sheriffs and other police officers anywhere in the state, provided that said employees shall have no power or authority in connection with strikes or industrial disputes.
- (9) To assist and aid any peace officer whose life or safety is in jeopardy.
- (10) As peace officers to provide security and protection to the governor, governor elect, either or both houses of the legislature, and state buildings or property in the manner and to the extent determined to be necessary after consultation with the governor, or a designee. Pursuant to this clause, members of the state patrol, acting as peace officers have the same powers with respect to the enforcement of laws relating to crimes, as sheriffs, constables and police officers have within their respective jurisdictions.
- (11) To inspect school buses anywhere in the state for the purposes of determining compliance with vehicle equipment, pollution control, and registration requirements.
- (12) As peace officers to make arrests for public offenses committed in their presence anywhere within the state. Persons arrested for violations other than traffic violations shall be referred forthwith to the appropriate local law enforcement agency for further investigation or disposition.

The state may contract for state patrol members to render the services described in this section in excess of their regularly scheduled duty hours and patrol members rendering such services shall be compensated in such amounts, manner and under such conditions as the agreement provides.

Employees thus employed and designated shall subscribe an oath.

[For text of subds 1a to 12, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 326 art 7 s 8

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Personnel to enforce the laws relating to motor vehicle equipment, school bus equipment, drivers license, motor vehicle registration, motor vehicle size and weight, and motor vehicle petroleum tax, to enforce public utilities commission rules relating to motor carriers, to enforce pollution control agency rules relating to motor vehicle noise abatement, and to enforce laws relating to directing the movement of vehicles shall be classified employees of the commissioner of public safety assigned to the division of state patrol. Employees engaged in these duties, while actually on the job during their working hours only, shall have power to issue citations in lieu of arrest and continued detention and to prepare notices to appear in court for violation of these laws and rules, in the manner provided in section 169.91, subdivision 3. They shall not be armed and shall have none of the other powers and privileges reserved to peace officers.

History: 1993 c 326 art 7 s 9