

CHAPTER 169

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION

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**169.01 DEFINITIONS.** Subdivision 1. **Words, terms, and phrases.** Unless the language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, the following words, terms, and phrases, for the purposes of this chapter, shall be given the meanings subjoined to them.

Subdivision 2. **Vehicle.** 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.

Subdivision 3. **Motor vehicle.** Every vehicle which is self-propelled and not deriving its power from overhead wires.

Subdivision 4. **Motor-cycle.** 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, but excluding a tractor.

Subdivision 5. **Authorized emergency vehicle.** Vehicles of the fire department, police vehicles, and such ambulances and emergency vehicles of municipal departments or public service corporations as are designated or authorized by the commissioner of highways or the chief of police of an incorporated city, and equipped and identified according to law.

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Subdivision 6. **School bus.** 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.

Subdivision 7. **Truck-tractor.** 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.

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

Subdivision 9. **Road tractor.** 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.

Subdivision 10. **Trailer.** 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.

Subdivision 11. **Semi-trailer.** 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.

Subdivision 12. **Pneumatic tire.** Every tire in which compressed air is designed to support the load.

Subdivision 13. **Solid tire.** Every tire of rubber or other resilient material which does not depend upon compressed air for the support of the load.

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

Subdivision 15. **Railroad.** A carrier of persons or property upon cars, other than street cars, operated upon stationary rails.

Subdivision 16. **Railroad train.** A steam engine, electric or other motor, with or without cars coupled thereto, operated upon rails, except street cars.

Subdivision 17. **Street car.** A car other than a railroad train for transporting persons or property and operated upon rails principally within a municipality.

Subdivision 18. **Trackless trolley car.** Every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires but not operated on rails.

Subdivision 19. **Explosives.** 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 combustive 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.

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

Subdivision 21. **Commissioner.** The commissioner of highways of this state, acting directly or through his duly authorized officers and agents.

Subdivision 22. **Department.** The department of highways of this state, acting directly or through its duly authorized officers and agents.

Subdivision 23. **Person.** Every natural person, firm, copartnership, association, or corporation.

Subdivision 24. **Pedestrian.** Any person afoot.

Subdivision 25. **Driver.** Every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

Subdivision 26. **Owner.** 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.

Subdivision 27. **Police officer.** Every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.

Subdivision 28. **Local authorities.** Every county, municipal, and other local board or body having authority to adopt local police regulations under the constitution and laws of this state.

Subdivision 29. **Street or highway.** The entire width between property lines of every way or place of whatever nature when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for purposes of vehicular traffic.

Subdivision 30. **Private road or driveway.** 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.

Subdivision 31. **Roadway.** That portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

Subdivision 32. **One-way roadway.** A street or roadway designated and signposted for one-way traffic and on which all vehicles are required to move in one indicated direction.

Subdivision 33. **Sidewalk.** 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.

Subdivision 34. **Laned highway.** A highway the roadway of which is divided into three or more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.

Subdivision 35. **Through highway.** 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.

Subdivision 36. **Intersection.** 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.

Subdivision 37. **Crosswalk.** (1) That portion of a roadway ordinarily included within 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.

Subdivision 38. **Safety zone.** 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.

Subdivision 39. **Business district.** The territory contiguous to and including a highway when 50 per cent or more of the frontage thereon for a distance of 300 feet or more is occupied by buildings in use for business.

Subdivision 40. **Residence district.** 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.

Subdivision 41. **Official traffic control devices.** 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.

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

Subdivision 43. **Railroad sign or signal.** 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.

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

Subdivision 45. **Right of way.** The privilege of the immediate use of highway.

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

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**Subdivision 47. Custom service vehicles.** 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.

**Subdivision 48. Motor vehicle dealer.** 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.

[1937 c. 464 s. 1; Ex. 1937 c. 38 s. 1; 1939 c. 430 s. 1] (2720-151)

**169.02 TRAFFIC LAWS.** **Subdivision 1. Obedience; effect.** The provisions of this chapter relating to the operation of vehicles refer exclusively to the operation of vehicles upon highways, 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.

**Subdivision 2. Violation a misdemeanor.** 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.

**Subdivision 3. Must comply with orders of peace officers.** 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 ss. 2, 3, 4] (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.

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.

Street cars 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, stopping at through streets and railroad tracks, and obeying signals of traffic-control devices and rights of way, 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 vehicle 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 ss. 5, 6, 7; 1945 c. 383 s. 1] (2720-155, 2720-156, 2720-157)

**169.04 LOCAL AUTHORITIES NOT RESTRICTED.** 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 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) of this section 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] (2720-158)

**169.05 NOT TO APPLY TO 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 TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS, MARKINGS.** Subdivision 1. **Uniform system of traffic-control devices.** 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.

Subdivision 2. **Placement and maintenance of traffic-control devices.** 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.

Subdivision 3. **Placement and maintenance of traffic-control devices in municipalities.** 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.

Subdivision 4. **Observance of traffic-control devices.** 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.

Subdivision 5. **Colors for devices.** 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, the following colors only shall be used, which terms and lights shall indicate as follows:

- (a) Green alone, or "Go"—

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(1) Vehicular traffic facing the signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits either such turn; vehicular traffic shall yield the right of way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection at the time such 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 shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at the intersection, but vehicles within the intersection may be driven cautiously through the intersection;

(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 nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at such other point as may be indicated by a clearly visible line, and shall remain standing until green or "Go" is shown alone;

(2) No pedestrian facing such signal shall enter the roadway unless he can do so safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.

(d) Red with green arrow—

(1) Vehicular traffic facing such signal may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, but shall not interfere with other traffic or endanger pedestrians lawfully within a crosswalk;

(2) No pedestrian facing such signal shall enter the roadway unless he can do so safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.

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

**Subdivision 6. Flashing signs.** When flashing red or yellow signals are used they shall require obedience by vehicular traffic, as follows:

(1) Flashing red (stop signal)—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 shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign;

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

[1937 c. 464 ss. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15; 1939 c. 413; 1941 c. 419] (2720-160, 2720-161, 2720-162, 2720-163, 2720-164, 2720-165)

**169.07 UNAUTHORIZED SIGNS PROHIBITED.** 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 DISPLAY OF 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 effective-

ness 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 216.12, 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]

**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. **Duties of driver.** The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person shall immediately stop such vehicle at the scene of such accident, or as close thereto as possible, but shall then forthwith return to, and in every event shall remain at, the scene of the accident until he has fulfilled all requirements of this chapter as to the giving of information. Every such stop shall be made without obstructing traffic more than necessary.

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 \$10.00, nor more than \$100.00.

The commissioner shall revoke the driver's license of the person so convicted.

Subd. 2. **Driver to stop at scene.** 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 of vehicle to give name, address, and license number.** 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. **Driver to report collision with vehicle not attended.** The driver of any vehicle which collides with and damages any vehicle which is unattended shall immediately stop and shall then and there either locate and notify the driver or owner of such vehicle of the name and address of the driver and owner of the vehicle striking the unattended vehicle, or shall report the same to a police officer.

Subd. 5. **Driver to notify owner of property damaged.** 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. **Notice of injury to person given to police or to sheriff.** 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, otherwise he shall in like manner give notice to the office of the sheriff of the county.

Subd. 7. **Notice of injury to person or damage to property given 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 \$50.00 or more, shall, within 24 hours, forward a written report of such accident to the commissioner.

Subd. 8. **Law enforcement 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. **Forms for accident reports.** 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. **Information required in accident reports.** 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 to department.** 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 and repair shops to report to police or sheriff and commissioner.** 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 and any law enforcement department of any municipality or county in this state shall, upon written request of any person involved in an accident, disclose to such person, his executor, administrator, or legal counsel, the name and address of any person involved in an accident, the name and address of any witnesses to the accident, the name and address of any officer who has investigated the accident, the license number of any motor vehicle involved therein, and the date and place of the accident. No such report or contents thereof shall be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident, and no person in any trial or action shall be examined or testify as to such report nor as to the making thereof or the contents thereof, except that the department shall furnish upon 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 requirement 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. 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 ss. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23; 1939 c. 430 ss. 2, 3; 1941 c. 439; 1943 c. 548 s. 1; 1945 c. 207 s. 1] (2720-168, 2720-169, 2720-170, 2720-171, 2720-172, 2720-173)



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**169.10 REPORTS TABULATED AND ANALYZED.** 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 PERSONS UNDER INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR LIQUOR PROHIBITED FROM DRIVING VEHICLES.** It is unlawful and punishable as provided in this section for any person who is an habitual user of narcotic drugs or any person who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs to drive or operate any vehicle within this state.

Every person who is convicted of a violation of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than ten, nor more than 90, days or by a fine of not less than \$10.00, nor more than \$100. On a second or subsequent conviction he shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 30 nor more than 90 days or by a fine of not less than \$25.00, nor more than \$100, and his license to drive shall be revoked for not less than 90 days.

[1937 c. 464 s. 26; 1939 c. 430 s. 4; 1941 c. 552] (2720-176)

**169.13 RECKLESS DRIVING; PENALTY.** 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.

Every person convicted of reckless driving shall be punished, upon a first conviction, by imprisonment for a period of not less than ten, nor more than 90, days or by a fine of not less than \$10.00, nor more than \$100, and, on a second or subsequent conviction, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 30, nor more than 90, days or by a fine of not less than \$25.00, nor more than \$100.

Any person who 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, is guilty of careless driving.

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

**169.14 SPEED RESTRICTIONS.** Subdivision 1. **Reasonable speed.** 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.

Subdivision 2. **Miles per hour 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 any 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.

Subdivision 3. **When 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.

Subdivision 4. **Signs for speed limits.** When the commissioner shall determine upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that any speed hereinbefore set forth is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist on any trunk highway or upon any part thereof, the commissioner may erect appropriate signs designating a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat, which shall be effective when such appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected.

Subdivision 5. **Signs in municipalities.** When local authorities within their respective jurisdictions shall have reason to believe that the existing speed limit upon any street or highway, or part thereof, not a part of the trunk highway system is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under conditions existing, 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 does hereby have authority to authorize the erection of such signs designating a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat, which shall be effective when such appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected by authority of the commissioner. Alteration of speed limits on streets and highways shall be made only upon authority of the commissioner.

Subdivision 6. **In an action brought, summons must state rate of speed charged.** 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.

Subdivision 7. **Not to change rule of evidence as to 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.

[1937 c. 464 s. 28; 1939 c. 430 s. 6] (2720-178)

**169.15 DRIVERS NOT TO IMPEDE 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 EXCEPTIONS.** The speed limitations set forth in sections 169.14 to 169.17 shall not apply to authorized emergency vehicles when responding to emergency calls, providing the drivers thereof sound audible signal by siren, and two lighted red lights are displayed to the front. This provision shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street, nor shall it protect the driver of any such vehicle from the consequence of a reckless disregard of the safety of others.

[1937 c. 464 s. 31] (2720-181)

**169.18 RULES FOR DRIVING VEHICLES UPON ROADWAYS.** Subdivision 1. **Driving on right half of roadway.** 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.

Subdivision 2. **Pass on right side.** 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.

Subdivision 3. **Rules for passing.** The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to those 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;
- (3) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle which is making or about to make a left turn;
- (4) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and, allowing sufficient clearance, pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, either upon the left or upon the right, on a roadway with unobstructed pavement of sufficient width for four or more lines of moving traffic when such movement can be made in safety;
- (5) 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 on-coming 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;
- (6) 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:
  - (a) 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;
  - (b) 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;
  - (c) 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.
- (7) 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;
- (8) A vehicle passing around a rotary traffic island shall be driven only to the right of such island;

(9) When any roadway has been divided into three 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 sign-posted 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.

(10) 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;

(11) 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 150 feet of another vehicle. The provisions of clause (11) shall not be construed to prevent overtaking and passing nor shall the same apply upon any lane specially designated for use by motor trucks.

[1937 c. 464 ss. 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39; 1939 c. 430 s. 7] (2720-182, 2720-183, 2720-184, 2720-185, 2720-186, 2720-187, 2720-188, 2720-189)

**169.19 TURNING AND STARTING; SIGNALS ON STOPPING AND TURNING.** Subdivision 1. **Signals for turning at intersections.** 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;

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

(4) 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.

Subdivision 2. **U-turn on highways.** 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.

Subdivision 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.

Subdivision 4. **Turning from direct course on highway.** No person shall turn a vehicle from a direct course upon a highway unless and until such 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 such movement or after giving an appropriate signal in the manner hereinafter provided in the event any other vehicle may be affected by such movement.

Subdivision 5. **Signal for left turn.** A signal of intention to turn left shall be given continuously during not less than the last 75 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning.

Subdivision 6. **Signal for stopping or decreasing speed.** 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.

Subdivision 7. **Methods of signaling.** 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.

Subdivision 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 horizontally from and beyond the left side of the vehicle.

[1937 c. 464 ss. 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45; 1939 c. 430 s. 8]. (2720-190, 2720-191, 2720-192, 2720-193, 2720-194, 2720-195)

**169.20 RIGHT OF WAY.** Subdivision 1. **Approaching intersection.** The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection shall yield the right of way to a vehicle which has entered the intersection from a different highway.

When two vehicles enter an 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 foregoing rules are modified at through highways, and otherwise as hereinafter stated in this section.

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

Subdivision 2. **At intersections.** 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.

Subdivision 3. **Through highways.** 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.

Subdivision 4. **Driver entering highway shall yield right of way.** 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.

Subdivision 5. **Emergency vehicle to have right of way.** Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle, when the driver is giving audible signal by siren, the driver of every 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 such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

Upon the approach of an authorized emergency vehicle, as above stated, the motorman of every street car and the operator of every trackless trolley car shall immediately stop such car clear of any intersection and keep it in such position and keep the doors and gates of such street car or trackless trolley car closed until

the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

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

Subdivision 6: **Funeral procession to have right of way.** 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 ss. 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51; 1939 c. 430 s. 9] (2720-196, 2720-197, 2720-198, 2720-199, 2720-200, 2720-201)

**169.21 PEDESTRIANS, RIGHTS, DUTIES.** Subdivision 1. **Subject to traffic-control signals at intersections.** 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.

Subdivision 2. **To have right of way in certain cases.** 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 any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk, at an intersection, except as otherwise provided in sections 169.21 and 169.22.

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 such stopped vehicle.

It shall be 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, created in accordance with section 131.24, while such member of a 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.

Subdivision 3. **To yield right of way when not crossing at crosswalks.** 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.

Subdivision 4. **To cross on right half of crosswalks.** Pedestrians shall move when practicable upon the right half of crosswalks.

Subdivision 5. **To 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.

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

**169.22 NOT TO SOLICIT RIDES.** 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)

**169.23 STREET CARS AND SAFETY ZONES.** 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 temporarily 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 TO STOP TEN FEET FROM STREET CARS.** The driver of a vehicle overtaking upon the right any street car stopped or about to stop for the purpose of receiving or discharging any passenger shall stop such vehicle at least ten feet to the rear of the nearest running-board or door of such street car and thereupon remain standing until all passengers have boarded such car or upon alighting have reached a place of safety, except that where a safety zone has been established a vehicle need not be brought to a stop before passing any such street car but may proceed past such car at a speed not greater than is reasonable and proper and with due caution for the safety of pedestrians. The pedestrian going to and from a street car shall have the right of way over all vehicles and motor vehicles.

[1937 c. 464 s. 59] (2720-209)

**169.25 NOT TO GO THROUGH SAFETY ZONES.** No vehicle shall at any time be driven through a safety zone.

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

**169.26 SPECIAL STOPS.** 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 DANGEROUS HIGHWAY; RAILROAD CROSSING TO BE MARKED.** 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)

**169.28 DRIVERS OF CERTAIN VEHICLES MUST STOP.** 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 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; Ex. 1937 c. 38 s. 1] (2720-213)

**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)

**169.30 THROUGH HIGHWAYS DESIGNATED.** 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 at entrances thereto or may designate any intersection as a stop 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 intersections on state trunk highways.

Every driver of a vehicle and every motorman of a street car shall stop at such sign or at a clearly marked stop line before entering an intersection, except when directed to proceed by a police officer or traffic-control signal.

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

**169.31 TO STOP BEFORE REACHING 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 OFFICIALS 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 WHERE STOPS ARE PROHIBITED.** No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in 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; Ex. 1937 c. 38 s. 1; 1939 c. 430 s. 13] (2720-219)

**169.35 PARKING ON ROADWAY.** Except where angle parking is permitted by local ordinance, every vehicle stopped or parked upon a roadway where there is an adjacent curb shall be so stopped or parked with the right-hand wheels of such 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. Otherwise upon all streets and highways every vehicle stopped or parked shall be so stopped or parked parallel with and to the right of the paved or improved or main traveled part of such street or highway.

[1937 c. 464 s. 70; Ex. 1937 c. 38 s. 1; 1939 c. 430 s. 14] (2720-220)

**169.36 BRAKES MUST 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 RESTRICTIONS ON LOADS.** 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 TO DRIVE ON RIGHT SIDE OF HIGHWAYS.** 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 MUST NOT CROSS 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 ON HIGHWAY.** 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.

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] (2720-227)

**169.43 SWINGING GATES, RACKS, OR PARTITIONS FORBIDDEN.** 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.

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 thereon extends beyond the tail-gate or tail-board, rendering impossible the closing thereof.

[1937 c. 464 ss. 78, 79] (2720-228) (2720-229)

**169.44 PASSING SCHOOL BUSES.** The driver of a vehicle upon a highway outside of a business or residence district, upon meeting or overtaking any school bus which has stopped on the highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school children, shall come to a complete stop and shall not resume motion until the school bus has completed loading or unloading passengers.

This section shall be applicable only in the event the school bus shall bear upon the front and rear thereon 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.

[1937 c. 464 s. 80; 1939 c. 430 s. 15] (2720-230)

**169.45 DESIGN AND COLOR OF SCHOOL BUSES.** The commissioner shall adopt and enforce regulations not inconsistent with this chapter to govern the design, color, and operation of all school buses used for the transportation of school children, when owned and operated by any school district or privately owned and operated under contract with any school district in this state, and such regulations shall by reference be made a part of any such contract with a school district. Every school district, its officers and employees, and every person employed under contract by a school district shall be subject to such regulations.

[1937 c. 464 s. 81] (2720-231)

**169.46 NOT TO HITCH BEHIND MOTOR 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 VEHICLES WITH UNSAFE EQUIPMENT NOT TO BE DRIVEN ON HIGHWAY.** 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)

**169.48 VEHICLE LIGHTS.** 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.

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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 HEADLIGHTS.** Every motor vehicle, other than a motor-cycle, shall be equipped with two head lamps, no more, no less, 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] (2720-235)

**169.50 REAR LIGHTS.** Every motor vehicle and every vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles shall be equipped with a lighted rear lamp, exhibiting a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear. No person shall sell or operate any new motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer unless the rear lamp thereon shall be mounted and located on the rear within 20 inches from the extreme left edge and not less than 24, nor more than 60, inches from the surface upon which the vehicle stands, unless the use or construction of the vehicle would make such location impracticable.

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 clearly legible from a distance of 50 feet to the rear. When the rear license plate is illuminated by an electric lamp other than the required rear lamp, the two lamps shall be turned on or off only by the same control switch at all times whenever head lamps are lighted.

Every new motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer hereafter sold, and every such vehicle hereafter operated on a highway, shall also carry at the rear, either as a part of the rear lamp or separately, a reflector. Every such reflector shall be of a type approved by the commissioner and shall be mounted as close as is practicable to the extreme left edge of the vehicle at a height not more than 60, nor less than 24, inches above the surface upon which the vehicle stands. Every such reflector shall be so designed and maintained as to be visible at night from all distances within 300 feet to 50 feet from such vehicle, except that on a commercial vehicle the reflector shall be visible from all distances within 500 feet to 50 feet from such vehicle, when directly in front of a motor vehicle displaying lawfully lighted head lamps.

[1937 c. 464 s. 86] (2720-236)

**169.51 MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTS.** 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

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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 LIGHTS AND FLAGS AT END OF LOAD.** 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, whether attended or unattended, during the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required in this chapter, such vehicle shall be equipped with one or more lamps located near the extreme outer edge of the vehicle which shall exhibit a white light on the roadway side visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such 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 any such 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 such highway. Any lighted head lamps upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.

[1937 c. 464 s. 89] (2720-239)

**169.54 BICYCLES MUST HAVE LIGHTS.** Every bicycle shall be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, except that an approved reflector meeting the minimum requirements of this chapter may be used in lieu of a rear light.

[1937 c. 464 s. 90; 1939 c. 430 s. 17] (2720-240)

**169.55 ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLES MUST HAVE LIGHTS.** All vehicles, including animal-drawn vehicles and including those specifically excepted in sections 169.47 to 169.79, with respect to equipment and not hereinbefore specifically required to be equipped with lamps, shall at the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required in this chapter be equipped with one or more lighted lamps or lanterns projecting a white light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front and to the rear, mounted on the roadway side of the vehicle, except that reflectors meeting the maximum requirements of this chapter may be used in lieu of the lights required in this section.

[1937 c. 464 s. 91] (2720-241)

**169.56 MOTOR VEHICLE MAY HAVE 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.

Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed four auxiliary lamps mounted on the front at a height of not more than 42, nor less than 12, inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands, and every such auxiliary lamp or lamps shall meet the requirements and limitations set forth in sections 169.47 and 169.79.

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

**169.57 SIGNAL-LIGHTS.** Any vehicle may be equipped and when a signal lamp or device is required under this chapter, shall be equipped, with a signal lamp or signal device which is so constructed and located on the vehicle as to give an adequate signal of intention to stop, which shall be red or yellow in color, and signals of intention to turn to the right or left, which shall be of such color as is

approved by the commissioner, all of which signals shall be plainly visible and understandable in normal sunlight and at night from a distance of 100 feet to the front and rear but shall not project a glaring or dazzling light, except that a stop signal need be visible only from the rear.

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

[1937 c. 464 s. 93; 1945 c. 207 s. 3] (2720-243)

**169.58 IDENTIFICATION LIGHTS.** 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 six, 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.

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

**169.59 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.

Any vehicle may be equipped with not more than one running-board courtesy lamp on each side thereof, which shall emit a white or yellow light without glare.

Any vehicle may be equipped with a back-up lamp, 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.

[1937 c. 464 s. 95] (2720-245)

**169.60 EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTS.** 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 that when the vehicle is fully loaded none of the high intensity portion of the beam shall project higher than a level which is five inches below the level of the center of the lamps from which it comes at a distance of 25 feet ahead;

(3) All road lighting beams shall be so aimed and of sufficient intensity to reveal a person or vehicle at a distance of, at least, 100 feet ahead;

(4) All road lighting equipment manufactured and installed shall be so arranged that when any beam is used which is not in conformity with clause (2) of this section, means shall be provided for indicating to the driver when such beams are being used.

[1937 c. 464 s. 96; Ex. 1937 c. 38 s. 1] (2720-246)

**169.61 COMPOSITE LIGHTS.** 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, and in no case shall the high intensity portion of the beam be aimed higher than the level which is five inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes at a distance of 25 feet ahead, and in no case higher than a level of .42 inches above the level upon which the vehicle stands at a distance of 75 and more feet ahead, except that a beam which is aimed higher than these levels to the right of the prolongation of the extreme left side of the vehicles may be used for meeting other vehicles on relatively straight highways, provided that no part of that portion of the beam which

rises higher than these levels is projected to the left of the center of the highway except momentarily.

[1937 c. 464 s. 97; 1945 c. 207 s. 5] (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 LIGHTS.** 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 CERTAIN LIGHTS PROHIBITED.** Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle, other than head lamps, spot lamps or auxiliary driving lamps, 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.

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, unless otherwise authorized by the commissioner.

This section shall not apply to authorized emergency vehicles or road machinery. Emergency vehicles shall be equipped with not less than two red lights to the front thereof, which shall be lighted when on emergency trips but which shall not be lighted when using the highways at other times.

Flashing lights are prohibited on vehicles, except as a means for indicating a turn or stop.

[1937 c. 464 s. 100] (2720-250)

**169.65 LIGHTING APPARATUS AND DEVICES; SPECIFICATIONS FOR TO BE ADOPTED AND ENFORCED.** 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 ss. 101, 102, 103; 1945 c. 207 s. 6] (2720-251, 2720-252, 2720-253)

**169.66 COMMISSIONER MAY HOLD HEARINGS.** 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. **To be adequate.** 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.

Subdivision 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.

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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 and semi-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, excepting 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, and except 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, and except trailers or semi-trailers when used by retail dealers delivering implements of husbandry, providing the gross weight of such trailer or semi-trailer 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 trailers and semi-trailers.** Every new motor vehicle trailer, or semi-trailer, hereafter sold in this state and operated upon the highways shall be equipped with service brakes upon all wheels of every such vehicle, except any motor-cycle and except that any semi-trailer of less than 1,000 pounds gross weight need not be equipped with brakes; provided, that a third wheel, of a swivel type, on a house trailer need not be equipped with brakes.

Subd. 5. **Distances for stoppage of vehicles.** The service brakes upon any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be adequate to stop such vehicle or vehicles when traveling 20 miles per hour within a distance of 30 feet when upon dry asphalt or concrete pavement surface free from loose material where the grade does not exceed one per cent.

Under the above conditions the hand-brake or parking brake shall be adequate to stop such vehicle or vehicles within a distance of 55 feet, which hand-brake or parking brake shall be adequate to hold such vehicle or vehicles stationary on any grade upon which operated.

Under the above conditions the service brakes upon a motor vehicle equipped with two-wheel brakes only, and when permitted hereunder, shall be adequate to stop the vehicle within a distance of 40 feet and the hand-brake or parking brake adequate to stop the vehicle within a distance of 55 feet.

All braking distances specified in this section shall apply to all vehicles mentioned, whether such vehicles are not loaded or are loaded to the maximum capacity permitted under this chapter.

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 ss. 105, 106; Ex. 1937 c. 38 s. 2; 1939 c. 430 s. 19; 1945 c. 207 s. 7] (2720-255, 2720-256)

**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 and 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. 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.

[1937 c. 464 s. 108; 1939 c. 430 s. 20] (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.** 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 sign, poster or other non-transparent 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.

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.

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

[1937 c. 464 s. 110; 1939 c. 430 s. 21] (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 AND REFLECTORS.** 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.

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

**169.74 SAFETY GLASS.** No person shall sell any new motor vehicle, nor shall any new motor vehicle be registered thereafter, which is designed or used for the purpose of transporting passengers for compensation or as a school bus, unless such vehicle is equipped with safety glass wherever glass is used in doors, windows, and windshields.

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No person shall sell any new motor vehicle, nor shall any new motor vehicle be registered thereafter, unless such vehicle is equipped with safety glass wherever glass is used in doors, windows, and windshields.

The term "safety glass" means any product composed of glass, or other material as may be approved by the commissioner, so manufactured, fabricated, or treated as substantially to prevent shattering and flying of the glass when struck or broken.

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.

[1937 c. 464 s. 113] (2720-263)

**169.75 CERTAIN VEHICLES TO HAVE AT LEAST THREE LIGHTS.** No person shall operate any bus, motor truck or tractor, except farm tractors, upon a highway outside of a business or residence district at any time from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise unless there shall be carried in such vehicle a sufficient number of flares, not less than three, or electric lanterns or other signals capable of continuously producing three warning lights each visible from a distance of at least 500 feet for a period of at least 12 hours, except that a motor vehicle transporting flammables may carry reflectors in place of the other signals above mentioned.

Every such flare, lantern, signal, or reflector shall be of a type approved by the commissioner, who shall publish lists of those devices which he has approved as adequate for the purposes of this section.

When any motor truck or tractor or bus is disabled during the period when lighted lamps must be displayed on vehicles and such motor truck 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 such vehicle shall cause such 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 such vehicle, one at a distance of approximately 100 feet to the rear of the vehicle, and the third upon the roadway side of the vehicle, except that if the vehicle is transporting flammables three reflectors may be so placed in lieu of such other signals and no open burning flare shall be placed adjacent to any such last mentioned vehicle.

No person shall at any time operate a motor truck transporting explosives as a cargo or part of a cargo upon a highway unless it carries flares or electric lanterns, as herein required, but such flares or electric lanterns must be capable of producing a light and shall be displayed upon the roadway when and as required in this section.

No person shall operate any motor truck or tractor upon a highway outside of a business or residence district unless there shall be carried in such vehicle a sufficient number of yellow or orange colored flags, not less than three, of a size approximately 24 inches by 24 inches, which must be displayed at any time from a half hour before sunrise to a 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 herein.

[1937 c. 464 s. 114; 1939 c. 430 s. 23] (2720-264)

**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 ADJUSTING HEADLIGHTS.** The commissioner is hereby authorized and required to designate, furnish instructions to and to supervise official stations for adjusting head lamps and auxiliary driving lamps and official stations for test-

ing brakes to conform with the provisions of this chapter. When head lamps and auxiliary driving 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.

The driver of any motor vehicle equipped with approved head lamps, auxiliary driving lamps, rear lamps, or signal lamps, who is arrested upon a charge that such 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 such lamps into conformance with requirements of this chapter. It shall be 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, such lamps or brakes have been made to conform with the requirements of this chapter. This chapter, with reference to official stations for testing brakes, shall not be in force and effect until six months after the duration of the present war as may be determined by competent Federal authority.

[1937 c. 464 s. 116; 1945 c. 428] (2720-266)

**169.78 MOTOR VEHICLE TESTING 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 \$1.00 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 VEHICLES MUST BE REGISTERED.** No person shall operate or drive 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] (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.

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.

Subdivision 2. **Outside width of vehicle or load.** 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.

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 and the sides of each load are covered with woven wire securely fastened at front and rear so as to prevent pieces slipping out on either side and so as to hold the load securely in place.

Subdivision 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 ss. 119, 120, 121; Ex. 1937 c. 45 s. 1; 1939 c. 23 ss. 1, 2; 1939 c. 430 s. 24] (2720-269, 2720-270, 2720-271)

**169.81 HEIGHT AND LENGTH OF VEHICLE AND LOAD.** Subdivision 1. **Limitation on height.** No vehicle unladen or with load shall exceed a height of 12 feet six inches.

Subd. 2. **Limitation on 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 said city, and 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. **Limitation on length of combination of vehicles.** No combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load shall consist of more than two units and no such combination of vehicles shall exceed a total length of 45 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 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 chapter, 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.

**Subd. 4. Limitation on length of load.** 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 ss. 122, 123; 1943 c. 226 s. 1] (2720-272, 2720-273)

**169.82 WEIGHT OF TRAILERS; 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)

**169.83 LIMIT OF WEIGHT UPON VEHICLES.** 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.

**Subd. 2. Basis for fixing gross weights.** Except as provided in subdivision 4 of this section, 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 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 650 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 750 shall be used where such distance is 18 feet or over.

**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. Permits for loads in excess of weight limits.** No vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be operated upon the trunk highways of this state in excess of the weight limits prescribed in subdivision 2 of this section without first securing from the commissioner a certificate setting forth the route or routes and the conditions under which such vehicle or combination of vehicles may be operated, and such vehicle or combination of vehicles thereafter shall be so operated only in accordance with the terms of such certificate. The commissioner is hereby empowered, and it is hereby made his duty, to issue or to deny or to issue in modified form such certificates upon application, and to prescribe therein the route or routes and the conditions for operations under each such certificate, and in determining such route or routes and such conditions, the commissioner of highways shall permit maximum use of the particular highways and bridges and other facilities of the highway sys-

tem under consideration, consistent with the maximum capacity of such highways, bridges and other facilities as determined by the commissioner in accordance with highway engineering practice. The commissioner shall have the power to revoke or to modify the terms of any existing certificate at any time in the event of operations in violation of any such certificate or in the event of changed conditions requiring such action. The original or a correct copy of the certificate under which operations are being conducted shall be carried at all times in the driver's cab of any vehicle or combination of vehicles while the same is being operated thereunder.

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 of this section, except that the gross weight limitations shall be reduced by 40 per cent.

Subd. 6. **Application of section.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to vehicles operated exclusively in any city or village or contiguous cities or villages in this state.

[1937 c. 464 s. 125; 1943 c. 226 s. 3; 1945 c. 113] (2720-275)

**169.84 LIMIT OF LOAD OVER 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.

[1937 c. 464 s. 126] (2720-276)

**169.85 WEIGHING VEHICLES; FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO WEIGHING; MISDEMEANOR.** 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 two miles.

When an officer, upon weighing a vehicle and load, as above provided, determines that the weight is unlawful, 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] (2720-277)

**169.86 SPECIAL PERMITS FOR MOVING VEHICLES.** Subdivision 1. **Application for permit.** 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. **Description of vehicles, period of time.** 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. **Issuance or withholding of permit.** 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 to any roadway or road structure.

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] (2720-278)

**169.87 RESTRICTIONS ON LOADS DURING CERTAIN SEASONS.** 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.

[1937 c. 464 s. 129] (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.** It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter unless such violation is by this chapter or other law of this state declared to be a gross misdemeanor or a felony.

Every person convicted of a misdemeanor for a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, for which another penalty is not provided, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.00, or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days.

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

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

**169.90 OFFENSES.** Subdivision 1. **Who guilty.** 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,

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Subdivision 2. **When owner liable.** 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.

[1937 c. 464 ss. 132, 133] (2720-282, 2720-283)

**169.91 ARRESTS.** Subdivision 1. **Procedure.** When any person is arrested for any violation of this chapter punishable as a misdemeanor, the arrested person shall be 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 failure to stop in the event of an accident causing death, personal injuries, or damage to property;

(5) In any other event when the person arrested refused to give his written promise to appear in court, as hereinafter provided.

Subdivision 2. **Report.** When a person is arrested for any violation of this chapter punishable as a misdemeanor, and such person is not immediately taken before a magistrate, the arresting officer shall prepare, in duplicate, written notice to appear in court, containing the name and address of such person, his driver's license or chauffeur's license number, the license of his vehicle, if any, the offense charged, and the time and place when and where such person shall appear in court.

The place specified in the notice to appear must be before a magistrate within the town, if there be a magistrate within the town, otherwise within the county in which the offense charged is alleged to have been committed and who has jurisdiction of such offense.

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

[1937 c. 464 ss. 134, 135; 1939 c. 430 ss. 28, 29] (2720-284, 2720-285)

**169.92 FAILURE TO APPEAR A MISDEMEANOR.** 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.

Subdivision 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 ss. 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)

**169.97 CITATION.** This chapter shall be cited as the highway traffic regulation act.

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