

Nineteen Hundred Thirty-One  
Supplement

to

# Mason's Minnesota Statutes

(1927 thru 1931)

Containing the text of the acts of the 1929 and 1931 Sessions of the  
Legislature, both new and amendatory, and notes showing repeals,  
together with annotations from the various courts, state  
and federal, construing the constitution, statutes,  
charters and court rules of Minnesota



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## CHAPTER 28A

### Department of Weights and Measures

#### §5276. Duties and powers of department.

175M276, 221NW6.

#### INSPECTION OF METERS AND DEVICES FOR MEASURING OF ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER

§5285-1. Inspection and test by railroad and warehouse commission—Petition for by residents of municipalities—Fees—Sealing and labeling devices.—The railroad and warehouse commission shall have power to inspect and test all meters, mechanical devices and measures of every kind, and tools, appliances and accessories connected therewith, used, employed, kept, sold or offered or exposed for sale within this state for the purpose of measuring the amount, quantity or extent of electricity, gas or water furnished, sold or distributed to the public by any person, association, corporation or municipality except cities of the first class having, or which may hereafter have meter inspection departments. Upon petition of at least 10 consumers of electricity, gas or water within the territorial limits of any municipality and upon the deposit with the clerk of such municipality by each of such consumers of a fee of 25 cents for each such meter, mechanical device and measure installed or used upon the premises of each such petitioning consumer, the governing body of such municipality may request the commission to make an inspection and test of all such meters, mechanical devices and measures upon the premises of such petitioning consumers. Thereupon the commission, within a reasonable time after the receipt by it of such request shall proceed to make an inspection and test of all such me-

ters, mechanical devices and measures upon the premises of all such petitioning consumers and upon the premises of all other consumers within such municipality who, at the time of such inspection and test, shall have deposited with the clerk of such municipality said fee of 25 cents for each such meter, mechanical device and measure upon the premises of such consumers. All such fees collected by the clerk of any such municipality shall be remitted by such municipality to the commission within 30 days of the completion of such inspection and test, and deposited to the credit of the Weights and Measures fund. All such meters, mechanical devices and measures found, upon inspection, to be correct and accurate, shall be sealed with proper devices to be approved by the commission. The commission, or any of its employes, shall condemn, seize and destroy all incorrect and inaccurate meters, mechanical devices and measures which, in the judgment of the commission cannot be satisfactorily repaired; and such as are incorrect and inaccurate and yet may be repaired, shall be marked as "Condemned for Repair," in the manner to be prescribed by the commission. The owners of such meters, mechanical devices and measures which have been so "Condemned for Repair," shall have the same repaired and corrected within 30 days; and such meters, mechanical devices and measures shall not be disposed of without the consent of the commission. In the general performance of its duty the commission, or any of its employes, may enter or go into or upon any premises, building, stand or place at all reasonable times. (As amended Mar. 27, 1931, c. 98.)

## CHAPTER 28A-1

### Telephone Companies

#### §5290. Schedule of rates, etc.

Interstate business of telegraph and telephone companies comes under the federal law regulating commerce (Mason's U. S. Code. Title 49 Chap. 1.). 173M424, 217NW386.

#### §5295. Connections between telephone companies not discontinued.

In determining whether one is guilty of an offense under §5310 in severing the connection between a company's exchange and the rural telephone company, the fact that the connection was made under private arrangements and not pursuant to an order of the Railroad and Warehouse Commission would be immaterial. Op. Atty. Gen., April 7, 1931.

#### §5302. Municipalities given right to operate telephone exchanges.

Village council may sell or lease its telephone exchange without submission to electors. Op. Atty. Gen., Apr. 16, 1929.

§5306. Companies given right to purchase property of other companies with consent of commission.

Section applies to sale of telephone exchange by a village. Op. Atty. Gen., Apr. 16, 1929.

#### §5310. Violation a gross misdemeanor.

In determining whether severing of connections would be a violation of §5295, the fact that the connection between the lines of the companies was made under a private arrangement would be immaterial. Op. Atty. Gen., April 7, 1931.

In a prosecution for severing connections of lines of two companies in violation of §5295, complaint must allege sufficient facts to bring both companies within the definition of the term "telephone company" as set forth in §5287. Op. Atty. Gen., April 7, 1931.

#### §5314. Tax levy for construction.

Where levy for one year is insufficient to construct telephone system the levies of several years may be accumulated until the fund is sufficient for the purpose. Op. Atty. Gen., Apr. 24, 1930.

§5318. Private owners may sell telephone lines to township—Railroad and Warehouse Commission to fix value.—When, under the

provisions of this act, a township telephone system shall be established in any township wherein any of the inhabitants of such town are already provided with telephone service furnished by any other telephone company, person or persons, such township shall, when so requested by said telephone company, person or persons, acquire from said telephone company all telephone equipment used by said telephone company, person or persons, in furnishing telephone service to the inhabitants of such township exclusively. For the purpose of determining the purchase price of such equipment application shall be made to the state railroad and warehouse commission, whose duty it shall be thereupon to determine the just compensation which the owner of such telephone equipment is entitled to receive therefor from the township. Before deciding upon such compensation, said commission shall at a public meeting which may be adjourned from time to time hear all interested parties on the question involved. The commission shall by order fix the compensation and furnish a copy of its order to the township, and to the telephone company, person or persons concerned. An appeal may be taken to the district court of the county wherein such township is situated from that part of the order fixing the compensation to be paid, within thirty days, by either party, which appeal shall be tried the same as other appeals hereunder; if no such appeal is taken the order of the commission shall become final at the end of thirty days, and when appeal is taken the decision of the district court or of the supreme court if taken there from the district court shall be final.

When, under the provisions of this act a township telephone system has been established in any township, and it has been determined by the board of supervisors of said township to be for the best interest of public service and all parties concerned, to sell and transfer said township telephone system to any telephone company, person or persons giving service organized for that purpose and

qualified to purchase said system and operate the same, the said board of supervisors shall have authority to sell, transfer, and convey said township telephone system upon such reasonable price and terms as it may determine, provided, that there shall be presented to the board of supervisors by a petition signed by at least twenty-five per cent of the freeholders of said township asking the sale thereof, and, if such sale and agreed sale price be approved at an annual or special town meeting, it being stated in the notice of such annual and special meeting that the proposition will be considered thereat, by sixty-six per cent of the legal voters attending such meeting.

If any township telephone lines are sold under the provisions of this act, and the township has theretofore issued bonds for the construction thereof, and any part of said bonds are then outstanding and unpaid; the entire consideration received from the sale, or such part as may be necessary, shall be held and applied only for the payment and retirement of such bonds. (As amended Apr. 11, 1929, c. 150, §1.)

**§5319. Town boards to manage.**—The board of supervisors of any such township is hereby vested with all necessary authority to manage, maintain and operate any township telephone system constructed under the provisions of this act, and, to that end, may, among other things, contract for the connection of such township lines with exchanges owned by others for switching, lease the system for a reasonable compensation, local exchange and toll connections, hire and discharge such employees as may be necessary to operate and maintain such township system, establish rules and regulations, and, subject to the approval of, the railroad and warehouse commission establish and from time to time change rates and charges, covering the service furnished to the users. (As amended Apr. 11, 1929, c. 150, §2.)

CHAPTER 28B

Department of Banking—Division of Banking in  
Department of Commerce

**§5323. Powers and duties of superintendent.**

179M217, 228NW926.

**§5324. Supervision over banks and other financial corporations.**

179M217, 228NW926.

**§5325. Refusal to obey directions of examiner.**

One is not excused by the absence of guilty knowledge or intention and his consequent moral innocence. 178M9, 225NW927.

This section applies whether the duty violated was imposed by the action of 1909 or by a prior statute. 179M217, 228NW926.

The offense consists in knowingly and intentionally or negligently failing to report, and it is error to reject evidence tending to show

good faith and lack of knowledge that the report was false. 179M217, 228NW926.

Offense, held committed in Isanti County though report was sent by mail to Commissioner in Ramsey County. 179M217, 228NW926.

Rulings on evidence considered. 179M217, 228NW926.

**§5328. State bank examiners or employees prohibited from holding bank stock.**—No person who is a bank examiner or other officer or employe of the division of banking of the department of commerce of this state shall be interested, either directly or indirectly, as a stockholder, director, officer, trustee, assignee, employe, or otherwise, in any bank, savings bank, trust company, financial institution, or corporation holding the stock of any such a corporation within this state, or which