

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

RUDOLPH F. KING, *Registrar*

100 NASHUA STREET, BOSTON

LEGISLATION, RULES and REGULATIONS

RELATING TO

MOTOR VEHICLES

1955



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APPROVED BY GEORGE J. CRONIN
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CHAPTER 35

Regulations and By-Laws Relative to Ways and Bridges

§ 1. Direction Signs, etc., Cities and Towns to Maintain.—Except as otherwise provided in section two, every city and town shall erect and maintain on the ways therein, except state highways and ways under the control of the metropolitan district commission, at such places as are convenient for the direction of travelers and at forks or intersections of ways which lead to adjoining cities or towns, direction signs, upon which shall be stated the name of the city, town or place to which each such way leads, and the distance to the same.

§ 2. Same Subject; Maintenance, etc., on State Highways, etc., by Department of Public Works, Regulated.—The department of public works, in this chapter called the department, shall erect and maintain on state highways and on ways leading thereto, and on all main highways between cities and towns, such direction signs, warning signs or lights, curb, street or other traffic markings, mechanical traffic signal systems, traffic devices, or parking meters as it may deem necessary for promoting the public safety and convenience and shall likewise install and maintain in accordance with accepted standards of engineering practice, such curb, highway, street or other traffic markings as conditions may require or as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of other statutes pertaining to highway markings. The department may, from time to time, make, alter, rescind or add to rules and regulations relative to such signs, lights, signal systems, traffic devices, parking meters and markings, and may issue rules and regulations to direct, govern and restrict the movements of vehicles on all state highways and to carry out the purposes of section nine of chapter eighty-nine on highways, including state highways, which are designated thereunder by the department as through ways, with penalties for the violation thereof not exceeding twenty dollars for each offense. No such signs, lights, signal systems, traffic devices, parking meters or markings shall be erected or maintained on any state highway by any authority other than the

department except with its written approval as to location, shape, size and color thereof, and except during such time as said approval is in effect. The department may, after notice, revoke any approval granted under this section. No rule, regulation, order, ordinance or by-law of a city or town hereafter made or promulgated relative to or in connection with such signs, lights, signal systems, traffic devices, parking meters or markings on any way within its control, shall take effect until approved in writing by the department, or be effective after said approval is revoked. The superior court shall have jurisdiction in equity to enforce the provisions of this section and section one, and also sections one and four of chapter eighty-nine and any rule or regulation made thereunder or to enjoin the violation thereof.

§ 2A. Removal from State Highways of Vehicles Interfering with the Removal of Snow and Ice.—The department, for the purpose of removing or plowing snow, or removing ice, from a state highway, may, by its own employees or with such other assistance as it may require, remove, or cause to be removed, to some convenient place, any vehicle interfering with such work. The department shall keep records of the registration number of each vehicle so removed and of the place to which it was removed.

§ 10A. Coasting Regulated.—Selectmen in towns, and the aldermen or other board or officer having charge of ways in cities, may by regulation designate certain ways or parts of ways, other than state highways, upon which and the hours during which coasting may be permitted and may in like manner regulate the use of such ways by vehicles during such hours.

§ 11A. Registration and Operation of Bicycles.—No resident of any city which accepts this section by vote of its city council, or of any town which accepts this section by vote of the town, shall operate a bicycle within the limits thereof unless such bicycle is registered under this section in such city or town and unless the registration plate issued therefor is attached to such bicycle. The police department of such a city or town, or the selectmen of

such a town having no organized police department, shall register all bicycles owned by persons residing within the city or town and issue to the owners thereof certificates of registration, which shall be in effect, unless suspended as hereinafter provided, so long as such registrants own said bicycles. The application for registration shall contain the name, address and age of the owner, the make of the bicycle, and serial number, if any, affixed by the maker, or any other identifying marks. The certificate of registration shall contain the name and address of the owner, a description of the bicycle and a register number. Every bicycle so registered shall have attached thereto a registration plate furnished by the police department or the selectmen, as the case may be, of the city or town where registered. Such plate shall bear the register number assigned to the bicycle and the name of the city or town where registered. Upon the sale or other transfer of a registered bicycle, the registrant shall remove the registration plate and surrender the same to the police department or the selectmen, as the case may be, or may, upon application but without payment of an additional fee, have said plate assigned to another bicycle owned by the applicant. A bicycle rental agency in any city or town which accepts this section shall not rent or offer any bicycle for rent unless the bicycle is registered and a registration plate is attached thereto as provided herein. Every person engaged in the business of buying or selling new or second hand bicycles in such a city or town shall make a report to the said police department or selectmen, as the case may be, of every bicycle purchased or sold by such dealer, giving the name and address from whom purchased or to whom sold, a description of such bicycle by name or make, and the number of the registration plate, if any, attached thereto. Blank forms of applications and certificates for use in carrying out the provisions of this section shall be prepared and furnished by the commissioner of public safety to all such cities and towns at their expense. Every bicycle shall be equipped with a red reflector visible from the rear and at least two inches in diameter. A fee of not more than twenty-five cents shall be collected for each registration plate and certificate issued under this section.

In such cities and towns, operators of bicycles shall con-

form to traffic rules and regulations so far as they are obviously and reasonably applicable for their own safety. No operator of a bicycle shall permit any person in excess of the number for which such bicycle is designed and equipped to ride thereon with him, and no operator of a bicycle shall permit it to be drawn by any other moving vehicle. Violation of any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of one dollar and in addition the police department of such a city or town, or the selectmen of such a town having no organized police department, may suspend the registration certificate of any registered bicycle operated in violation of any such provision. In case the person operating a bicycle in violation of any such provision is a minor, the police department, or the selectmen, as the case may be, instead of prosecuting such minor hereunder, may, with the consent of his parent or guardian, impound such bicycle for a period not exceeding fifteen days. This section shall apply only to a bicycle at least one wheel of which exceeds twenty inches in diameter. No violation of any of the provisions of this section relative to the registration of bicycles shall affect any civil right or liability, nor shall any such violation by a minor under the age of eighteen be considered a criminal offense.

§ 14A. Funeral Processions.—A funeral procession of not more than ten vehicles shall have the right, except on Sundays and legal holidays, to use any parkway, boulevard or other public way to the same extent and subject to the same regulations and restrictions as vehicles commonly known as pleasure vehicles.

§ 14B. Signal Lights on Ways Where Certain Vehicles Are Disabled.—Whenever any commercial vehicle having a gross weight in excess of five thousand pounds other than a motor bus or taxicab, or any automobile service truck, so called, becomes disabled upon the traveled portion of any street or highway the operator of such vehicle shall, during the time when lights are required to be displayed on motor vehicles, place three flares on the traveled part of the way in the following positions:—one flare in the center of the traffic lane in which such disabled vehicle remains and distant approximately one hundred feet from such vehicle in the direction of traffic