

## CHAPTER 169

### HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION

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NOTE: For commissioner of transportation's power on rule making for snowmobiles, see chapter 84.

## 169.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. **Vehicle.** "Vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

Subd. 3. **Motor vehicle.** "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which is self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires. Motor vehicle does not include a vehicle moved solely by human power.

Subd. 4. **Motorcycle.** "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, including motor scooters and bicycles with motor attached, other than those vehicles defined as motorized bicycles in subdivision 4a, but excluding a tractor.

Subd. 4a. **Motorized bicycle.** "Motorized bicycle" means a bicycle with fully operatable pedals which may be propelled by human power or a motor, or by both, with a motor of a capacity of less than 50 cubic centimeters piston displacement, and a maximum of two brake horsepower, which is capable of a maximum speed of not more than 30 miles per hour on a flat surface with not more than one percent grade in any direction when the motor is engaged.

Subd. 5. **Authorized emergency vehicle.** "Authorized emergency vehicle" means any of the following vehicles when equipped and identified according to law: (1) A vehicle of a fire department; (2) a publicly owned police vehicle or a privately owned vehicle used by a police officer for police work under agreement, express or implied, with the local authority to which he is responsible; (3) a vehicle of a licensed land emergency ambulance service, whether publicly or privately owned; (4) an emergency vehicle of a municipal department or a public service corporation, approved by the commissioner of public safety or the chief of police of a municipality; (5) any volunteer rescue squad operating pursuant to Laws 1959, Chapter 53; (6) a vehicle designated as an authorized emergency vehicle upon a finding by the commissioner of public safety that designation of that vehicle is necessary to the preservation of life or property or to the execution of emergency governmental functions.

Subd. 6. **School bus.** "School bus" means 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.

Subd. 7. **Truck-tractor.** "Truck-tractor" means 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.

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

Subd. 9. **Road tractor.** "Road tractor" means 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.

Subd. 10. **Trailer.** "Trailer" means 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.

Subd. 11. **Semi-trailer.** "Semi-trailer" means 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.

Subd. 12. **Pneumatic tire.** "Pneumatic tire" means every tire in which compressed air is designed to support the load.

Subd. 13. **Solid tire.** "Solid tire" means every tire of rubber or other resilient material which does not depend upon compressed air for the support of the load.

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

Subd. 15. **Railroad.** "Railroad" means a carrier of persons or property upon cars, other than street cars, operated upon stationary rails.

Subd. 16. **Railroad train.** "Railroad train" means a steam engine, electric or other motor, with or without cars coupled thereto, operated upon rails, except street cars.

Subd. 17. [ Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17 ]

Subd. 18. **Trackless trolley car.** "Trackless trolley car" means every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires but not operated on rails.

Subd. 19. **Explosives.** "Explosives" means 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 combustible 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.

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

Subd. 21. **Commissioner.** Unless stated otherwise, "commissioner" means the commissioner of transportation of this state. Regardless of the commissioner referred to, however, he is to be considered as acting directly or through his duly authorized officers and agents.

Subd. 22. **Department.** Unless stated otherwise, "department" means the department of transportation of this state. Regardless of the department referred to, however, it is to be considered as acting directly or through its duly authorized officers and agents.

Subd. 23. **Person.** "Person" means every natural person, firm, copartnership, association, or corporation.

Subd. 24. **Pedestrian.** "Pedestrian" means any person afoot.

Subd. 25. **Driver.** "Driver" means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

Subd. 26. **Owner.** "Owner" means 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.

Subd. 27. **Police officer.** "Police officer" means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.

Subd. 28. **Local authorities.** "Local authorities" means every county, municipal, and other local board or body having authority to adopt local police regulations under the constitution and laws of this state, and the Regents of the University of Minnesota, with reference to property owned, leased, or occupied, by the Regents of the University of Minnesota, or the University of Minnesota.

Subd. 29. **Street or highway.** "Street or highway" means the entire width between boundary lines of any way or place when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for the purposes of vehicular traffic.

Subd. 30. **Private road or driveway.** "Private road or driveway" means 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.

Subd. 31. **Roadway.** "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the sidewalk or shoulder even though such sidewalk or shoulder is used by persons riding bicycles or other human powered vehicles. In the event a highway includes two or more separate roadways the term "roadway" as used herein shall refer to any such roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively.

Subd. 32. **One-way roadway.** "One-way roadway" means a street or roadway designated and sign-posted for one-way traffic and on which all vehicles are required to move in one indicated direction.

Subd. 33. **Sidewalk.** "Sidewalk" means 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.

Subd. 34. **Laned highway.** "Laned highway" means a highway the roadway of which is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.

Subd. 35. **Through highway.** "Through highway" means 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.

Subd. 36. **Intersection.** "Intersection" means (a) 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.

(b) Where a highway includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by an intersecting highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection. In the event such intersecting highway also includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of such highways shall be regarded as a separate intersection.

Subd. 37. **Crosswalk.** "Crosswalk" means (1) that portion of a roadway ordinarily included with 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.

Subd. 38. **Safety zone.** "Safety zone" means 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.

Subd. 39. **Business district.** "Business district" means the territory contiguous to and including a highway when 50 percent or more of the frontage thereon for a distance of 300 feet or more is occupied by buildings in use for business.

Subd. 40. **Residence district.** "Residence district" means 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.

Subd. 41. **Official traffic control devices.** "Official traffic control devices" means 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.

Subd. 42. **Traffic control signal.** "Traffic control signal" means any device, whether manually, electrically or mechanically operated, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and permitted to proceed.

Subd. 43. **Railroad sign or signal.** "Railroad sign or signal" means 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.

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

Subd. 45. **Right of way.** "Right of way" means the privilege of the immediate use of highway.

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

Subd. 47. **Custom service vehicles.** "Custom service vehicles" means 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.

Subd. 48. **Motor vehicle dealer.** "Motor vehicle dealer" means 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.

Subd. 49. **Truck.** "Truck" means every motor vehicle designed, used or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

Subd. 50. **Bus.** "Bus" means every motor vehicle designed for carrying more than ten passengers and used for the transportation of persons, and every motor vehicle other than a taxicab designed and used for the transportation of persons for compensation.

Subd. 51. **Bicycle.** "Bicycle" means every device propelled solely by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels except scooters and similar devices and including any device generally recognized as a bicycle though equipped with two front or rear wheels.

Subd. 52. **Wrecker.** "Wrecker" means a motor vehicle having a gross vehicle weight of 8,000 pounds or more, equipped with a crane and winch and further equipped to control the movement of the towed vehicle.

Subd. 53. **Bug deflector.** "Bug deflector" means a non-illuminated, transparent device attached to the hood of a motor vehicle so as to deflect the air stream.

Subd. 54. **Controlled access highway.** "Controlled access highway" means, in this chapter, every highway, street, or roadway in respect to which the right of access of the owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons has been acquired and to which the owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no legal right of access to or from the same except at such points only and in such manner as may be determined by the public authority having jurisdiction over such highway, street or roadway.

Subd. 55. **Implement of husbandry.** "Implement of husbandry" means every vehicle designed and adapted exclusively for agricultural, horticultural, or livestock-raising operations or for lifting or carrying an implement of husbandry and in either case not subject to registration if used upon the highways.

Subd. 56. **Stand or standing.** "Stand or standing" means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in receiving or discharging passengers.

Subd. 57. **Stop.** "Stop" means complete cessation from movement.

Subd. 58. **Stopping.** "Stopping" means any halting even momentarily of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control sign or signal.

Subd. 59. **Urban district.** "Urban district" means the territory contiguous to and including any street which is built up with structures devoted to business, industry, or dwelling houses situated at intervals of less than 100 feet for a distance of a quarter of a mile or more.

Subd. 60. **Service vehicle.** "Service vehicle" means a motor vehicle owned and operated by a person, firm or corporation engaged in a business which includes the repairing or servicing of vehicles. The term also includes snow removal and road maintenance equipment not operated by or under contract to the state or a governmental subdivision.

Subd. 61. **Alcohol concentration.** "Alcohol concentration" means

- (a) the number of grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood, or
- (b) the number of grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath, or
- (c) the number of grams of alcohol per 67 milliliters of urine.

Subd. 62. **Bicycle lanes and ways.** The terms "bicycle lane" and "bicycle way" shall have the meanings ascribed to them in section 160.263.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 1; Ex1937 c 38 s 1; 1939 c 430 s 1; 1947 c 204 s 1; 1947 c 428 s 1-4; 1949 c 90 s 1; 1949 c 247 s 1; 1951 c 114 s 1; 1951 c 331 s 1; 1953 c 289 s 1; 1953 c 303 s 1; 1955 c 536 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 1; 1961 c 42 s 1; 1963 c 357 s 1; 1971 c 164 s 1,2; 1973 c 27 s 1; 1974 c 379 s 1; 1975 c 29 s 2; 1976 c 104 s 1; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1977 c 214 s 6,7; 1978 c 494 s 1; 1978 c 613 s 4; 1978 c 727 s 1; 1978 c 739 s 1-5 (2720-151)

## 169.02 SCOPE.

Subdivision 1. The provisions of this chapter relating to the operation of vehicles refer exclusively to the operation of vehicles upon highways, and upon highways, streets, private roads, and roadways situated on property owned, leased, or occupied by the regents of the University of Minnesota, or the University of Minnesota, 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.

Subd. 2. It is a misdemeanor for any person to willfully 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 2-4; 1947 c 204 s 2; Ex1971 c 27 s 1 (2720-152, 2720-153, 2720-154)

### **169.03 EMERGENCY VEHICLES; APPLICATION.**

Subdivision 1. 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.

Subd. 2. 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.

Subd. 3. The driver of any authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to any emergency call, may enter against the run of traffic on any one-way street, or highway where there is authorized division of traffic, to facilitate traveling to the area in which an emergency has been reported; and the provisions of this section shall not affect any cause of action arising prior to its passage.

Subd. 4. An authorized emergency vehicle, when at the scene of a reported emergency, may park or stand, notwithstanding any law or ordinance to the contrary.

Subd. 5. 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.

Subd. 6. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to persons, 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, except that persons operating equipment owned or rented by road authorities shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 169.80 and 169.81.

Subd. 7. Streetcars 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, stopped at through streets and railroad tracks, and obeying signals of traffic-control devices and rights of way, driving under the influence of drugs or intoxicating liquor, careless driving, and the stopping at the scene of an accident and giving the information as required by this chapter, and following vehicles too closely, 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 vehicles or motor vehicle in the streets and highways of this state.

Subd. 8. Every person riding 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.

Subd. 9. 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 5-7; 1945 c 383 s 1; 1949 c 521; 1957 c 130 s 1; 1959 c 66 s 1; 1973 c 28 s 1; 1974 c 23 s 1; 1974 c 350 s 1; 1978 c 739 s 6 (2720-155, 2720-156, 2720-157)

#### 169.04 LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

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, except emergency vehicles, when on an emergency run, 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) 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. No ordinance or regulation enacted under clause (3) or any other provision of law shall prohibit the use of motorcycles utilizing flashing red lights for the purpose of escorting funeral processions, oversize buildings, heavy equipment, parades or similar processions or assemblages on the highways.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 8; 1939 c 359; 1957 c 130 s 2; 1969 c 429 s 1 (2720-158)

#### 169.05 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 9 (2720-159)



**169.06 SIGNS, SIGNALS, MARKINGS.**

Subdivision 1. **Uniform system.** 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. The adoption of the manual and specifications by the commissioner as herein provided is specifically exempted from the provisions and requirements of sections 15.0411 to 15.0422 and acts amendatory thereto.

Subd. 2. **Placement and maintenance on trunk highways.** 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, which sign shall have placed thereon the name of the city and the population thereof. The commissioner may construct and maintain other directional signs upon the trunk highways and such signs shall be uniform. The commissioner may authorize variations from the manual and specifications for the purpose of investigation and research into the use and development of traffic control devices. When such authorized variation pertains to the regulation of traffic, notice of the intended regulatory purpose shall be published in a qualified newspaper of general circulation in the area where the research is being conducted.

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.

Subd. 3. **Placement and maintenance by local authorities.** 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.

Subd. 4. **Obedience to and required traffic-control devices.** (a) The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official traffic-control device applicable thereto placed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, unless otherwise directed by a traffic or police officer, subject to the exceptions granted the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle in this chapter.

(b) No provision of this chapter for which official traffic-control devices are required shall be enforced against an alleged violator if at the time and place of the alleged violation an official device is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person. Whenever a particular section does not state that official traffic-control devices are required, such section shall be effective even though no devices are erected or in place.

(c) Whenever official traffic-control devices are placed in position approximately conforming to the requirements of this chapter, such devices shall be presumed to have been so placed by the official act or direction of lawful authority, unless the contrary shall be established by competent evidence.

(d) Any official traffic-control device placed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and purporting to conform to the lawful requirements pertaining to such devices shall be presumed to comply with the requirements of this chapter, unless the contrary shall be established by competent evidence.

Subd. 5. **Traffic-control signals.** Whenever traffic is controlled by traffic-control signals exhibiting different colored lights, or colored lighted arrows, successively one at a time or in combination, only the colors Green, Red, and

Yellow shall be used, except for special pedestrian signals carrying a word legend, and said lights shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(a) Green indication:

(1) Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits either such turn. But vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right of way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.

(2) Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal, shown alone or in combination with another indication, may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or such other movement as is permitted by other indications shown at the same time. Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

(3) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in subdivision 6, pedestrians facing any green signal, except when the sole green signal is a turn arrow, may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.

(b) Steady yellow indication:

(1) Vehicular traffic facing a circular yellow signal is thereby warned that the related green movement is being terminated or that a red indication will be exhibited immediately thereafter when vehicular traffic shall not enter the intersection, except for the continued movement allowed by any green arrow indication simultaneously exhibited.

(2) Pedestrians facing a circular yellow signal, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in subdivision 6, are thereby advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway before a red indication is shown and no pedestrian shall then start to cross the roadway.

(3) Vehicular traffic facing a steady yellow arrow signal is thereby warned that the protected vehicular movement permitted by the corresponding prior green arrow indication is being terminated.

(c) Steady red indication:

(1) Vehicular traffic facing a circular red signal alone shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until a green indication is shown, except as follows: (i) the driver of a vehicle which is stopped as close as practicable at the entrance to the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then at the entrance to the intersection in obedience to a red or stop signal, and with the intention of making a right turn may make such right turn, after stopping, unless an official sign has been erected prohibiting such movement, but shall yield the right of way to pedestrians and other traffic lawfully proceeding as directed by the signal at said intersection; or (ii) the driver of a vehicle on a one-way street which intersects another one-way street on which traffic moves to the left shall stop in obedience to a red or stop signal and may then make a left turn into said one-way street, unless an official sign has been erected prohibiting the movement, but shall yield the right of way to pedestrians and other traffic proceeding as directed by the signal at said intersection.

(2) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in subdivision 6, pedestrians facing a steady red signal alone shall not enter the roadway.

(3) Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal, with the intention of making a movement indicated by the arrow, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until a permissive signal indication is displayed.

(d) In the event an official traffic-control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section are applicable except those which can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made at the signal.

(e) When a traffic-control signal indication or indications placed to control a certain movement or lane are so identified by placing a sign near the indication or indications, no other traffic-control signal indication or indications within the intersection shall control vehicular traffic for such movement or lane.

**Subd. 6. Pedestrian control signals.** Whenever special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Don't Walk" are in place such signals shall indicate as follows:

(a) "Walk", flashing or steady. Pedestrians facing such signals may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles.

(b) "Don't Walk", flashing or steady. No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signals, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the "Walk" signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the "Don't Walk" signal is showing.

**Subd. 7. Flashing signals.** When flashing red or yellow signals are used they shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

(1) When a circular red lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

(2) When a red arrow lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes drivers of vehicles with the intention of making a movement indicated by the arrow shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

(3) When a circular yellow lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past the signals only with caution.

(4) When a yellow arrow indication is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles with the intention of making a movement indicated by the arrow may proceed through the intersection or past the signals only with caution.

**Subd. 8. Lane-direction-control signals.** When lane-direction-control signals are placed over individual lanes of a street or highway, vehicular traffic may travel in lanes as follows:

(a) Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow indication is permitted to drive in the lane over which the arrow signal is located.

(b) Vehicular traffic facing a red "X" indication shall not drive in the lane over which the signal is located.

(c) Vehicular traffic facing a steady yellow "X" indication is thereby warned that use of the lane over which the signal is located is being terminated, or that a red "X" indication will be exhibited immediately thereafter when vehicular traffic shall not drive in the lane.

(d) Vehicular traffic facing a yellow "X" indication illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes is permitted to use a lane over which the signal is located for a left turn or for a passing maneuver, using proper caution.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 10-15; 1939 c 413; 1941 c 419; 1947 c 428 s 5,6; 1955 c 325 s 1; 1957 c 369 s 1; 1961 c 31 s 1; 1963 c 357 s 2-4; 1965 c 31 s 1; 1965 c 51 s 23; 1965 c 133 s 1; 1969 c 876 s 1-6; 1971 c 17 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1975 c 49 s 1 (2720-160, 2720-161, 2720-162, 2720-163, 2720-164, 2720-165)

### 169.07 UNAUTHORIZED SIGNS.

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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 16 (2720-166)

### 169.073 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 transportation 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 effectiveness or efficiency of the signals or devices used in the operation of a railroad, the department of public service shall have authority to cause the removal of the same and the department shall have authority to issue notices and orders for such removal. The department shall proceed as provided in sections 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.

No person or corporation shall maintain or display any such light after written notice thereof from the commissioner of transportation or the department of public service that such light constitutes a traffic hazard and has ordered the removal thereof.

**History:** 1943 c 141; 1961 c 560 s 15; 1971 c 25 s 67; Ex1971 c 27 s 2; 1976 c 166 s 7

**169.08 UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS, ALTER, DEFACE, OR REMOVE SIGNS.**

No person shall, without lawful authority, possess, or 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. A person who voluntarily notifies a law enforcement agency that he is in possession of such an article, and who returns the article within ten days after gaining possession thereof, shall not be subject to prosecution for such possession.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 17; 1978 c 638 s 1 (2720-167)

**169.09 ACCIDENTS.**

**Subdivision 1. Driver to stop.** The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person shall immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident, or as close thereto as possible, but shall then 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. The stop shall be made without unnecessarily obstructing traffic.

**Subd. 2. Driver to stop.** 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.

**Subd. 3. Driver to give information.** (a) 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, date of birth and the registration number of the vehicle he is driving, and shall, upon request and if available, exhibit his driver's license or permit to drive to the person struck or the driver or occupant of or person attending any vehicle collided with, and shall give such information and upon request exhibit such license or permit to any police officer at the scene of the accident or who is investigating the accident, and shall render reasonable assistance to any person injured in such accident.

(b) If not given at the scene of the accident, the driver, within 72 hours thereafter, shall give upon request to any person involved in the accident the name and address of the insurer providing automobile liability insurance coverage, and the local insurance agent for the insurer. A driver who fails to provide the information requested pursuant to this clause is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

**Subd. 4. Collision with unattended vehicle.** The driver of any vehicle which collides with and damages any vehicle which is unattended shall immediately stop and either locate and notify the driver or owner of the vehicle of the name and address of the driver and owner of the vehicle striking the unattended vehicle, shall report the same to a police officer, or shall leave in a conspicuous place in the vehicle struck a written notice giving the name and address of the driver and of the owner of the vehicle doing the striking.

**Subd. 5. Notify owner of damaged property.** 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 in every case. The report shall be made in the same manner as a report made pursuant to subdivision 7.

Subd. 6. **Notify police of personal injury.** 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, or to a state highway patrol officer if the accident occurs on a trunk highway, or to the office of the sheriff of the county.

Subd. 7. **Accident report 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 \$300 or more, shall forward a written report of the accident to the commissioner of public safety within ten days thereof. If, in the opinion of the commissioner of public safety, the original report of any driver of a vehicle involved in an accident of which report must be made as provided in this section is insufficient he may require the driver to file supplementary reports.

Subd. 8. **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 ten days after the date of such accident, forward a written report of such accident to the commissioner of public safety.

Subd. 9. **Accident report forms.** The department of public safety 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. **Use of form required.** Every accident report required to be made in writing shall be made on the appropriate form approved by the department of public safety and contain all of the information required therein unless not available.

Subd. 11. **Coroner to report death.** Every coroner or other official performing like functions shall report in writing to the department of public safety the death of any person within his jurisdiction as the result of an accident involving a motor vehicle and the circumstances of the accident. The report shall be made within 15 days after the death.

In the case of drivers killed in motor vehicle accidents and of the death of pedestrians 16 years of age or older, who die within four hours after accident, the coroner or other official performing like functions shall examine the body and shall make tests as are necessary to determine the presence and percentage concentration of alcohol, and drugs if feasible, in the blood of the victim. This information shall be included in each report submitted pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision and shall be tabulated on a monthly basis by the department of public safety. This information may be used only for statistical purposes which do not reveal the identity of the deceased.

Subd. 12. **Garages to report.** 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 of public safety 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. **Accident reports confidential.** All written reports and supplementary reports required to be provided to the department of public safety by

this section shall be without prejudice to the individual so reporting and shall be for the confidential use of the department of public safety, the Minnesota department of transportation, and appropriate federal, county and municipal governmental agencies for accident prevention purposes, except that the department of public safety or any law enforcement department of any municipality or county in this state shall, upon written request of any person involved in an accident or upon written request of the representative of his estate, his surviving spouse, or one or more of his surviving next of kin, or a trustee appointed pursuant to section 573.02, disclose to the requester, his legal counsel or a representative of his insurer any information contained therein except the parties' version of the accident as set out in the written report filed by the parties or may disclose identity of a person involved in an accident when the identity is not otherwise known or when the person denies his presence at the accident. No report shall be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident, except that the department of public safety shall furnish upon the demand of any person who has, or claims to have, made 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 of public safety solely to prove a compliance or a failure to comply with the requirements that the report be made to the department of public safety. Disclosing any information contained in any accident report, except as provided herein, is unlawful and a misdemeanor.

Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any person who has made a report pursuant to this chapter from testifying in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident, as to facts within his knowledge. It is intended by this subdivision to render privileged the reports required but it is not intended to prohibit proof of the facts to which the reports relate. Legally qualified newspaper publications and licensed radio and television stations 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 and licensed radio and television stations 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 or broadcast of the news.

This subdivision shall supersede other state law relating to data privacy or confidentiality with regard to accident reports. When these reports are released for accident prevention purposes the identity of any involved person shall not be revealed. Data contained in these reports shall only be used for accident prevention purposes, except as otherwise provided by this subdivision. Accident reports and data contained therein which may be in the possession or control of departments or agencies other than the department of public safety shall not be discoverable under any provision of law or rule of court.

**Subd. 14. Penalty.** Except as provided in subdivision 3, clause (b), any person failing to comply with any of the requirements of this section, under the circumstances specified, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 18-23; 1939 c 430 s 2,3; 1941 c 439; 1943 c 548 s 1; 1945 c 207 s 1; 1947 c 114 s 1; 1947 c 428 s 7-10; 1959 c 679 s 1; 1963 c 280 s 1; 1963 c 634 s 1; 1965 c 815 s 1; Ex1967 c 3 s 1; 1971 c 491 s 5-11; Ex1971 c 27 s 3-5; 1974 c 22 s 1-4; 1974 c 343 s 1; 1977 c 53 s 1; 1978 c 461 s 1,2; 1978 c 679 s 1; 1980 c 498 s 2,3 (2720-168, 2720-169, 2720-170, 2720-171, 2720-172, 2720-173)

**169.10 STATISTICAL INFORMATION.**

The department of public safety 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 24; 1971 c 491 s 12 (2720-174)

**169.11 CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE.**

The commissioner of public safety shall revoke the driver's license, and 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 25; 1963 c 753 art 2 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 15,18 (2720-175)

**169.12 [ Repealed, 1957 c 297 s 2 ]****169.121 MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS UNDER INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.**

Subdivision 1. It is a misdemeanor for any person to drive, operate or be in physical control of any motor vehicle within this state:

- (a) When the person is under the influence of alcohol;
- (b) When the person is under the influence of a controlled substance;
- (c) When the person is under the influence of a combination of any two or more of the elements named in clauses (a) and (b); or
- (d) When the person's alcohol concentration is 0.10 or more.

The provisions of this subdivision apply, but are not limited in application, to any person who drives, operates, or is in physical control of any motor vehicle in the manner prohibited by this subdivision upon the ice of any lake, stream, or river, including but not limited to the ice of any boundary water.

Subd. 2. Upon the trial of any prosecution arising out of acts alleged to have been committed by any person arrested for driving, operating, or being in physical control of a motor vehicle in violation of subdivision 1, the court may admit evidence of the amount of alcohol or a controlled substance in the person's blood, breath, or urine as shown by a medical or chemical analysis thereof, if the test is taken voluntarily or pursuant to section 169.123.

For the purposes of this subdivision:

- (a) evidence that there was at the time an alcohol concentration of 0.05 or less is prima facie evidence that the person was not under the influence of alcohol;
- (b) evidence that there was at the time an alcohol concentration of more than 0.05 and less than 0.10 is relevant evidence in indicating whether or not the person was under the influence of alcohol.

The foregoing provisions do not limit the introduction of any other competent evidence bearing upon the question whether or not the person was under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

Subd. 3. Every person convicted of a violation of this section or an ordinance in conformity therewith is punishable by imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or by a fine of not more than \$500, or both, and his driver's license shall be revoked for not less than 30 days, except that every person who is convicted of a violation of this section or an ordinance in conformity therewith, when the violation is found to be the proximate cause of great bodily harm as defined in section 609.02, subdivision 8, or death to another person, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or by fine of not more



than \$500, or both, and his driver's license shall be revoked for not less than 90 days.

Any person whose license has been revoked pursuant to section 169.123 is not subject to the mandatory revocation provision of this subdivision.

Subd. 4. Every person who is convicted of a violation of this section or an ordinance in conformity therewith within three years of any previous such conviction shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$500, or both, and his driver's license shall be revoked for not less than 90 days.

Subd. 5. The court may stay imposition or execution of any sentence authorized by subdivision 3 or 4 on the condition that the convicted person submit to treatment by a public or private institution or a facility providing rehabilitation for chemical dependency licensed by the department of public welfare. A stay of imposition or execution shall be in the manner provided in section 609.135. The court shall report to the commissioner of public safety any stay of imposition or execution of sentence granted under the provisions of this section.

Subd. 6. When a peace officer has reason to believe from the manner in which a person is driving, operating, or controlling a motor vehicle, or has driven, operated, or controlled a motor vehicle, that the driver may be violating or has violated subdivision 1, he may require the driver to provide a sample of his breath for a preliminary screening test using a device approved by the commissioner of public safety for this purpose. The results of this preliminary screening test shall be used for the purpose of deciding whether an arrest should be made and whether to require the chemical tests authorized in section 169.123, but shall not be used in any court action except to prove that a chemical test was properly required of a person pursuant to section 169.123, subdivision 2. Following the screening test additional tests may be required of the driver pursuant to the provisions of section 169.123.

The driver of a motor vehicle who refuses to furnish a sample of his breath is subject to the provisions of section 169.123 unless, in compliance with section 169.123, he submits to a blood, breath or urine test to determine the presence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

Subd. 7. On behalf of the commissioner of public safety a court shall serve notice of revocation on a person convicted of a violation of this section. The court shall take the license or permit of the driver, if any, or obtain a sworn affidavit stating that the license or permit cannot be produced, and send it to the commissioner with a record of the conviction and issue a temporary license effective only for the period during which an appeal from the conviction may be taken. No person who is without driving privileges at the time shall be issued a temporary license and any temporary license issued shall bear the same restrictions and limitations as the driver's license or permit for which it is exchanged.

The commissioner shall issue additional temporary licenses until the final determination of whether there shall be a revocation under this section.

**History:** 1957 c 297 s 1; 1961 c 454 s 9; 1967 c 283 s 1; 1967 c 569 s 1; 1969 c 744 s 1; 1971 c 244 s 1; 1971 c 893 s 1,2; Ex1971 c 27 s 6; 1973 c 421 s 1; 1973 c 494 s 8; 1975 c 370 s 1; 1976 c 298 s 2; 1976 c 341 s 1; 1978 c 727 s 2

#### **169.122 OPEN BOTTLE LAW; PENALTY.**

Subdivision 1. No person shall drink or consume intoxicating liquors or nonintoxicating malt liquors in any motor vehicle when such vehicle is upon a public highway.

Subd. 2. No person shall have in his possession on his person while in a private motor vehicle upon a public highway, any bottle or receptacle containing intoxicating liquor or nonintoxicating malt liquor which has been opened, or the seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed.

Subd. 3. It shall be unlawful for the owner of any private motor vehicle or the driver, if the owner be not then present in the motor vehicle, to keep or allow to be kept in a motor vehicle when such vehicle is upon the public highway any bottle or receptacle containing intoxicating liquors or nonintoxicating malt liquors which has been opened, or the seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed except when such bottle or receptacle shall be kept in the trunk of the motor vehicle when such vehicle is equipped with a trunk, or kept in some other area of the vehicle not normally occupied by the driver or passengers, if the motor vehicle is not equipped with a trunk. A utility compartment or glove compartment shall be deemed to be within the area occupied by the driver and passengers.

Subd. 4. Whoever violates the provisions of subdivisions 1 to 3 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1959 c 255 s 1-4

### 169.123 CHEMICAL TESTS FOR INTOXICATION.

Subdivision 1. **Peace officer defined.** For purposes of this section and section 169.121, the term peace officer means a state highway patrol officer, university of Minnesota peace officer, a constable as defined in section 367.40, subdivision 3, or police officer of any municipality, including towns having powers under section 368.01, or county.

Subd. 2. **Implied consent; conditions; election as to type of test.** (a) Any person who drives, operates, or is in physical control of a motor vehicle within this state consents, subject to the provisions of this section and section 169.121, to a chemical test of his blood, breath, or urine for the purpose of determining the presence of alcohol or a controlled substance. The test shall be administered at the direction of a peace officer. The test may be required of a person when an officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe the person was driving, operating, or in physical control of a motor vehicle in violation of section 169.121 and one of the following conditions exist: (1) the person has been lawfully placed under arrest for violation of section 169.121, or an ordinance in conformity therewith; or (2) the person has been involved in a motor vehicle accident or collision resulting in property damage, personal injury, or death; or (3) the person has refused to take the screening test provided for by section 169.121, subdivision 6; or (4) the screening test was administered and recorded an alcohol concentration of 0.10 or more. Any person may decline to take a direct blood test and elect to take either a breath or urine test, whichever is available and offered. No action may be taken against the person for declining to take a direct blood test unless either a breath or urine test was available and offered.

(b) At the time a chemical test specimen is requested, the person shall be informed:

(1) that if testing is refused, the person's right to drive will be revoked for a period of six months; and

(2) that if a test is taken and the results indicate that the person is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, the person will be subject to criminal penalties and the person's right to drive may be revoked for a period of 90 days; and

(3) that the person has a right to consult with an attorney but that this right is limited to the extent that it cannot unreasonably delay administration of the test or the person will be deemed to have refused the test; and

(4) that after submitting to testing, the person has the right to have additional tests made by a person of his own choosing.

Subd. 2a. **Requirement of urine test.** Notwithstanding subdivision 2, if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe there is impairment by a controlled substance which is not subject to testing by a blood or breath test, a urine test may be required even after a blood or breath test has been administered.

Subd. 3. **Manner of making test; additional tests.** Only a physician, medical technician, physician's trained mobile intensive care paramedic, registered nurse, medical technologist or laboratory assistant acting at the request of a peace officer may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the presence of alcohol or controlled substance. This limitation does not apply to the taking of a breath or urine specimen. The person tested has the right to have a person of his own choosing administer a chemical test or tests in addition to any administered at the direction of a peace officer; provided, that the additional test specimen on behalf of the person is obtained at the place where the person is in custody, after the test administered at the direction of a peace officer, and at no expense to the state. The failure or inability to obtain an additional test or tests by a person shall not preclude the admission in evidence of the test taken at the direction of a peace officer unless the additional test was prevented or denied by the peace officer. Upon the request of the person who is tested, full information concerning the test or tests taken at the direction of the peace officer shall be made available to him. The physician, medical technician, physician's trained mobile intensive care paramedic, medical technologist, laboratory assistant or registered nurse drawing blood at the request of a peace officer for the purpose of determining alcohol concentration shall in no manner be liable in any civil or criminal action except for negligence in drawing the blood. The person administering a test at the request and direction of a peace officer shall be fully trained in the administration of the tests pursuant to standards promulgated by rule by the commissioner of public safety.

Subd. 4. **Refusal, consent to permit test; revocation of license.** If a person refuses to permit chemical testing, none shall be given, but the peace officer shall report the refusal to the commissioner of public safety and the authority having responsibility for prosecution of misdemeanor offenses for the jurisdiction in which the acts occurred. If a person submits to chemical testing and the test results indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.10 or more, the results of the test shall be reported to the commissioner of public safety and to the authority having responsibility for prosecution of misdemeanor offenses for the jurisdiction in which the acts occurred.

Upon certification by the peace officer that there existed reasonable and probable grounds to believe the person had been driving, operating, or in physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance and that the person refused to submit to chemical testing, the commissioner of public safety shall revoke the person's license or permit to drive, or his nonresident operating privilege, for a period of six months. Upon certification by the peace officer that there existed reasonable and probable grounds to believe the person had been driving, operating or in physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance and that the person submitted to chemical testing and the test results indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.10 or more, the commissioner of public safety shall revoke the person's license or permit to drive, or his nonresident operating privilege, for a period of 90 days.

If the person is a resident without a license or permit to operate a motor vehicle in this state, the commissioner of public safety shall deny to the person the issuance of a license or permit for the same period after the date of the alleged violation as provided herein for revocation, subject to review as hereinafter provided.

**Subd. 5. Notice of revocation or determination to deny; request for hearing.**

No revocation under subdivision 4 is effective until the commissioner of public safety or a peace officer acting on his behalf notifies the person of the intention to revoke and of revocation and allows the person a 30 day period to request of the commissioner of public safety, in writing, a hearing as herein provided. If no request is filed within the 30 day period the order of revocation becomes effective. If a request for hearing is filed, a revocation is not effective until a final judicial determination resulting in a decision adverse to the person.

**Subd. 5a. Peace officer agent for notice of revocation.** On behalf of the commissioner of public safety a peace officer offering a chemical test or directing the administration of a chemical test may serve immediate notice of intention to revoke and of revocation on a person who refuses to permit chemical testing or on a person who submits to a chemical test the results of which indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.10 or more. The officer shall take the license or permit of the driver, if any, and issue a temporary license effective only for 30 days. The peace officer shall send the person's driver's license to the commissioner of public safety along with the certificate required by subdivision 4.

If the person requests a hearing within the 30 day period, the commissioner shall issue additional temporary licenses until the final determination of whether there shall be a revocation under this section.

**Subd. 6. Hearing.** A hearing under this section shall be before a municipal or county judge, in the county where the alleged offense occurred, unless there is agreement that the hearing may be held in some other county. The hearing shall be to the court and may be conducted at the same time and in the same manner as hearings upon pre-trial motions in the criminal prosecution under section 169.121, if any. The hearing shall be recorded. The commissioner of public safety may appear through his own attorney or, by agreement with the jurisdiction involved, through the prosecuting authority for that jurisdiction.

The scope of the hearing shall cover the issues of: (1) whether the peace officer had reasonable and probable grounds to believe the person was driving, operating, or in physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, and whether the person was lawfully placed under arrest for violation of section 169.121, or the person was involved in a motor vehicle accident or collision resulting in property damage, personal injury or death, or the person refused to take a screening test provided for by section 169.121, subdivision 6, or the screening test was administered and recorded an alcohol concentration of 0.10 or more; and (2) whether at the time of the request for the test the peace officer informed the person of his rights and the consequences of taking or refusing the test as required by subdivision 2; and (3) either (a) whether the person refused to permit the test, or (b) whether a test was taken and the test results indicated an alcohol concentration of 0.10 or more, and whether the testing method used was valid and reliable, and whether the test results were accurately evaluated.

It shall be an affirmative defense for the person to prove that his refusal to permit the test was based upon reasonable grounds.

The court shall order either that the revocation be rescinded or sustained and forward the order to the commissioner of public safety. If the revocation is sustained, the court shall also forward the person's driver's license to the commissioner of public safety for his further action if the license is not already in the commissioner's possession.

**Subd. 7. Review by district court.** If the revocation or denial is sustained, the person whose license or permit to drive, or nonresident operating privilege has been revoked or denied, may within 20 days after notice of the determination by the commissioner of public safety file a petition for a hearing of the

matter in the district court in the county where the hearing pursuant to subdivision 6 was held unless there is agreement that the hearing may be held in some other county. The petition shall be filed with the clerk of the court together with proof of service of a copy thereof on the commissioner of public safety. It is the duty of the court to set the matter for hearing on a day certain with reasonable notice thereof to the parties. The hearing shall be on the record and shall be conducted in the same manner provided in sections 487.39 and 484.63 for appeal of misdemeanor convictions.

**Subd. 8. Notice of action to other states.** When it has been finally determined that a nonresident's privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state has been revoked or denied, the commissioner of public safety shall give information in writing of the action taken to the official in charge of traffic control or public safety of the state of the person's residence and of any state in which he has a license.

**Subd. 9. Limited license.** In any case in which a license has been revoked under this section, the commissioner may issue a limited license to the driver. The commissioner in issuing a limited license may impose the conditions and limitations which in his judgment are necessary to the interests of the public safety and welfare, including re-examination of the driver's qualifications, attendance at a driver improvement clinic, or attendance at counseling sessions. The license may be limited to the operation of particular vehicles and to particular classes and time of operation. The limited license issued by the commissioner shall clearly indicate the limitations imposed and the driver operating under a limited license shall have the license in his possession at all times when operating as a driver. In determining whether to issue a limited license, the commissioner shall consider the number and the seriousness of prior convictions and the entire driving record of the driver.

**Subd. 10. Termination of revocation period.** If the commissioner receives notice of the driver's attendance at a driver improvement clinic, attendance at counseling sessions, or participation in treatment for an alcohol problem the commissioner may, 30 days prior to the time the revocation period would otherwise expire, terminate the revocation period. The commissioner shall not terminate the revocation period under this subdivision for a driver who has had a license revoked under section 169.121 or this section for another incident during the preceding three year period.

**History:** 1961 c 454 s 1-8; 1967 c 284 s 1-6; 1969 c 620 s 1; 1969 c 742 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18; 1971 c 893 s 3; Ex1971 c 36 s 1; 1973 c 35 s 36; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 555 s 1; 1974 c 406 s 35-38; 1977 c 82 s 2; 1978 c 727 s 3; 1980 c 395 s 1; 1980 c 483 s 1

#### **169.124 ALCOHOL SAFETY PROGRAM.**

**Subdivision 1.** The county board of every county having a population of more than 10,000 shall and the county board of every county having a population of less than 10,000 may establish an alcohol safety program designed to provide alcohol problem assessment and evaluation of persons convicted of one of the offenses enumerated in section 169.126, subdivision 1.

**Subd. 2.** The alcohol problem assessment shall be conducted under the direction of the court and by such persons or agencies as the court deems qualified to provide the alcohol problem assessment and assessment report as described in section 169.126. The alcohol problem assessment may be conducted by court services probation officers having the required knowledge and skills in the assessment of alcohol problems, by alcoholism counselors, by persons conducting court sponsored driver improvement clinics if in the judgment of the court such persons have the required knowledge and skills in the assessment of

alcohol problems, by appropriate staff members of public or private alcohol treatment programs and agencies or mental health clinics, by court approved volunteer workers such as members of Alcoholics Anonymous, or by such other qualified persons as the court may direct. The commissioner of public safety shall provide the courts with information and assistance in establishing alcohol problem assessment programs suited to the needs of the area served by each court. The commissioner shall consult with the alcohol and other drug abuse section in the department of public welfare and with local community mental health boards in providing such information and assistance to the courts. The commissioner of public safety shall promulgate rules and standards, consistent with this subdivision, for reimbursement under the provisions of subdivision 3. The promulgation of such rules and standards shall not be subject to chapter 15.

Subd. 3. The cost of alcohol problem assessment outlined in this section shall be borne by the county. Upon application by the county to the commissioner of public safety, the commissioner shall reimburse the county up to 50 percent of the cost of each alcohol problem assessment not to exceed \$25 in each case. Payments shall be made annually and prorated if insufficient funds are appropriated.

**History:** 1976 c 298 s 1; 1978 c 727 s 4

#### 169.125 COUNTY COOPERATION.

County boards may enter into an agreement to establish a regional alcohol problem assessment alcohol safety program. County boards may contract with other counties and agencies for alcohol problem assessment services.

**History:** 1976 c 298 s 3; 1978 c 727 s 5

#### 169.126 ALCOHOL PROBLEM ASSESSMENT.

Subdivision 1. An alcohol problem assessment shall be conducted in counties of more than 10,000 population and an assessment report submitted to the court by the county agency administering the alcohol safety counseling program when:

(a) The defendant is convicted of an offense described in section 169.121; or

(b) The defendant is arrested for committing an offense described in section 169.121, is not convicted therefor, but is convicted of another offense arising out of the circumstances surrounding such arrest.

Subd. 2. The assessment report shall contain an evaluation of the convicted defendant concerning his prior traffic record, characteristics and history of alcohol problems, and amenability to rehabilitation through the alcohol safety program. The assessment report shall include a recommendation as to a treatment or rehabilitation program for the defendant. The assessment report shall be classified as private data on individuals as defined in section 15.162, subdivision 5a.

Subd. 3. The assessment report required by this section shall be prepared by a person knowledgeable in diagnosis of chemical dependency.

Subd. 4. The court shall give due consideration to the agency's assessment report.

Subd. 5. Whenever a person is convicted of a second or subsequent offense described in subdivision 1 and the court is either provided with an appropriate treatment or rehabilitation recommendation from sources other than the alcohol problem assessment provided for in this section, or has sufficient knowledge both of the person's need for treatment and an appropriate treatment or rehabilitation plan, and the court finds that requiring an alcohol problem assessment would not substantially aid the court in sentencing, such an alcohol problem assessment need not be conducted.

Subd. 6. This section shall not apply to persons who are not residents of the state of Minnesota at the time of the offense and at the time of the alcohol problem assessment.

**History:** 1976 c 298 s 4; 1978 c 727 s 6

#### **169.1261 REINSTATEMENT OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES; NOTICE.**

Upon expiration of any period of revocation under section 169.121 or 169.123, the commissioner of public safety shall notify the person of the terms upon which his driving privileges can be reinstated, which terms are: (1) successful completion of a driving test and proof of compliance with any terms of alcohol treatment or counseling previously prescribed, if any; and (2) any other requirements imposed by the commissioner and applicable to that particular case. The commissioner shall also notify the person that if driving is resumed without reinstatement of driving privileges, the person will be subject to criminal penalties.

**History:** 1978 c 727 s 7

**169.127** [ Repealed, 1978 c 727 s 11 ]

#### **169.128 RULES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY.**

The commissioner of public safety may promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of sections 169.121 and 169.123. The rules may include forms for notice of intention to revoke, which shall describe clearly the right to a hearing, the procedure for requesting a hearing, and the consequences of failure to request a hearing; forms for revocation and notice of reinstatement of driving privileges as provided in section 169.1261; and forms for temporary licenses.

Rules promulgated pursuant to this section are exempt from the procedure required by sections 15.0411 to 15.052.

**History:** 1978 c 727 s 8

#### **169.129 AGGRAVATED VIOLATIONS; PENALTY.**

Any person who drives, operates, or is in physical control of a motor vehicle, the operation of which requires a driver's license, within this state in violation of section 169.121 or an ordinance in conformity therewith before his driver's license or driver's privilege has been reinstated following its cancellation, suspension or revocation (1) because he drove, operated, or was in physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance or while he had an alcohol concentration of 0.10 or more or (2) because he refused to take a test which determines the presence of alcohol or a controlled substance when requested to do so by a proper authority, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. Jurisdiction over prosecutions under this section is in the district court.

**History:** 1978 c 727 s 9

#### **169.13 RECKLESS OR CARELESS DRIVING.**

Subdivision 1. 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 and such reckless driving is a misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. 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, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 3. **Application.** The provisions of this section apply, but are not limited in application, to any person who drives any vehicle in the manner prohibited by this section upon the ice of any lake, stream, or river, including but not limited to the ice of any boundary water.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 27; 1939 c 430 s 5; 1947 c 428 s.11; 1967 c 569 s 2; Ex1971 c 27 s 7 (2720-177)

**169.131** [ Repealed, 1976 c 103 s 1 ]

**169.132** [ Repealed, 1977 c 347 s 29 ]

#### **169.14 SPEED RESTRICTIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Basic rule.** 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.

Subd. 2. **Speed 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 the speed limit within any municipality shall be a maximum limit and any speed in excess thereof shall be unlawful:

- (1) 30 miles per hour in an urban district;
- (2) 65 miles per hour in other locations during the daytime;
- (3) 55 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.

Subd. 3. **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.

Subd. 4. **Establishment of zones by commissioner.** When the commissioner determines upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that any speed set forth in this section is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist on any trunk highway or upon any part thereof, he may erect appropriate signs designating a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat, which speed limit shall be effective when such signs are erected. 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 a maximum limit and any speed in excess thereof shall be unlawful. Whenever the commissioner determines upon that basis that a part of the trunk highway system outside a municipality should be a zone of maximum speed limit, he may establish that part as such a zone by erecting appropriate signs showing the beginning and end of the zone, designating a reasonable and safe speed therefor, which may be different than the speed set forth in this section, and that it is a zone of maximum speed limit. The speed so designated by him within any such zone shall be a maximum speed limit, and speed in excess of such limit shall be unlawful. He may in the same manner from time to time alter the boundary of such a zone and the speed limit therein or eliminate such zone.



Subd. 5. **Zoning within local areas.** When local authorities believe that the existing speed limit upon any street or highway, or part thereof, within their respective jurisdictions and not a part of the trunk highway system is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under existing conditions, 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 may authorize the erection of appropriate signs designating a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat, which speed limit shall be effective when such signs are erected. Any speeds in excess of these speed 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 a maximum limit and any speed in excess thereof shall be unlawful. Alteration of speed limits on streets and highways shall be made only upon authority of the commissioner except as provided in subdivision 5a.

Subd. 5a. **Speed zoning in school zones.** Local authorities may establish a school speed limit within a school zone of a public or nonpublic school upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation as prescribed by the commissioner of transportation. The establishment of a school speed limit on any trunk highway shall be with the consent of the commissioner of transportation. Such school speed limits shall be in effect when children are present, going to or leaving school during opening or closing hours or during school recess periods. The school speed limit shall not be lower than 15 miles per hour and shall not be more than 20 miles per hour below the established speed limit on an affected street or highway if the established speed limit is 40 miles per hour or greater.

The school speed limit shall be effective upon the erection of appropriate signs designating the speed and indicating the beginning and end of the reduced speed zone. Any speed in excess of such posted school speed limit is unlawful. All such signs shall be erected by the local authorities on those streets and highways under their respective jurisdictions and by the commissioner of transportation on trunk highways.

For the purpose of this subdivision, "school zone" means that section of a street or highway which abuts the grounds of a school where children have access to the street or highway from the school property or where an established school crossing is located provided the school advance sign prescribed by the manual on uniform traffic control devices adopted by the commissioner of transportation pursuant to section 169.06 is in place. All signs erected by local authorities to designate speed limits in school zones shall conform to the manual on uniform control devices.

Subd. 5b. **Segments in urban districts.** When any segment of at least a quarter-mile in distance of any city street, municipal state aid street or town road on which a speed limit in excess of 30 miles per hour has been established pursuant to an engineering and traffic investigation by the commissioner meets the definition of "urban district" as defined in section 169.01, subdivision 59, the governing body of the city or town may by resolution declare the segment to be an urban district and may establish on the segment the speed limit for urban districts prescribed in subdivision 2. The speed limit so established shall be effective upon the erection of appropriate signs designating the speed and indicating the beginning and end of the segment on which the speed limit is established, and any speed in excess of such posted limits shall be unlawful. A copy of the resolution shall be transmitted to the commissioner at least ten days prior to the erection of the signs.

Subd. 6. [ Repealed, Ex1971 c 27 s 49 ]

Subd. 7. **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.

Subd. 8. **Minimum speeds.** Where the commissioner determines upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that a speed at least as great as, or in excess of, a specified and determined minimum is necessary to the reasonable and safe use of any trunk highway or portion thereof, he may erect appropriate signs specifying the minimum speed on such highway or portion thereof. The minimum speed shall be effective when such signs are erected. Any speeds less than the posted minimum speeds shall be prima facie evidence that the speed is not reasonable or prudent and that it is unlawful.

Subd. 9. **Standards of evidence.** In any prosecution in which the rate of speed of a motor vehicle is relevant, evidence of the speed of a motor vehicle as indicated on the speedometer thereof shall be admissible on a showing that a vehicle is regularly used in traffic law enforcement and that the speedometer thereon is regularly and routinely tested for accuracy and a record of the results of said tests kept on file by the agency having control of said vehicle. Evidence as to the speed indicated on said speedometer shall be prima facie evidence that the said vehicle was, at the time said reading was observed, traveling at the rate of speed so indicated; subject to correction by the amount of error, if any, shown to exist by the test made closest in time to the time of said reading.

Records of speedometer tests kept in the regular course of operations of any law enforcement agency shall be admissible without further foundation, as to the results of said tests. Such records shall be available to the defendant upon demand. Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude or interfere with the cross examination or impeachment of evidence of rate of speed as indicated by speedometer readings, pursuant to the rules of evidence.

Subd. 10. **Radar; speedalyzer devices; standards of evidence.** In any prosecution in which the rate of speed of a motor vehicle is relevant, evidence of the speed as indicated on radar or other speedalyzer devices is admissible in evidence, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The officer operating the device has sufficient training to properly operate the equipment;
- (b) The officer testifies as to the manner in which the device was set up and operated;
- (c) The device was operated with minimal distortion or interference from outside sources; and
- (d) The device was tested by an accurate and reliable external mechanism, method, or system at the time it was set up.

Records of tests made of such devices and kept in the regular course of operations of any law enforcement agency are admissible in evidence without further foundation as to the results of the tests. The records shall be available to a defendant upon demand. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to preclude or interfere with cross examination or impeachment of evidence of the rate of speed as indicated on the radar or speedalyzer device.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 28; 1939 c 430 s 6; 1947 c 428 s 12,13; 1955 c 802 s 1,2; 1957 c 580 s 1; 1963 c 843 s 1-4; 1969 c 623 s 1; 1975 c 53 s 1; 1975 c 363 s 1,2; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1979 c 60 s 1; 1980 c 498 s 4 (2720-178)

#### **169.141 FUEL CONSERVATION; HIGHWAY SPEED REDUCTIONS; PENALTY.**

Subdivision 1. The legislature finds that there is a fuel shortage in this state; that by reason of the fuel shortage, it may be necessary to reduce highway vehicular speeds to conserve fuel; and that it is necessary to provide the execu-

tive department of government with the authority to impose highway vehicular speed restrictions upon a finding by the governor that such speed restrictions are necessary to conserve fuel.

Subd. 2. Upon a finding by the governor, after due consideration of available information and consultation with such federal and state officials as he deems appropriate, that it is necessary to reduce highway vehicular speeds, the commissioner of transportation, with the approval of the governor, shall, by order, designate the maximum allowable speed of vehicles using the highways of this state. The order shall be effective the day following the filing of a certified copy thereof in the office of the secretary of state, and shall remain in effect until rescinded by order of the commissioner of transportation. Any speed in excess of the designated maximum speed as contained in the order is unlawful, and the penalties provided in section 169.89 apply.

Subd. 3. The provisions of section 169.14 and the provisions of any other law authorizing highway vehicular speeds in excess of the maximum speed designated in the order of the commissioner of transportation provided for in subdivision 2 are inapplicable and of no effect during the period of time in which the order of the commissioner of transportation is in effect.

Subd. 4. The provisions of this section do not apply to authorized emergency vehicles when responding to emergency calls.

*History:* 1974 c 79 s 1; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1980 c 520 s 1

#### **169.145 IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY; SPEED; PENALTY.**

No person shall drive a self-propelled implement of husbandry, nor shall any person tow a self-propelled implement of husbandry, at a speed in excess of 30 miles per hour. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

*History:* 1977 c 397 s 1

#### **169.15 IMPEDING 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 or except when the vehicle is temporarily unable to maintain a greater speed due to a combination of the weight of the vehicle and the grade of the highway.

*History:* 1937 c 464 s 29; Ex1971 c 27 s 8 (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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 30 (2720-180)

### 169.17 EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

The speed limitations set forth in sections 169.14 to 169.17 do not apply to authorized emergency vehicles when responding to emergency calls, but the drivers thereof shall sound audible signal by siren and display at least one lighted red light to the front. This provision does not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of persons using the street, nor does it protect the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the consequence of a reckless disregard of the safety of others.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 31; 1947 c 428 s 14 (2720-181)

### 169.18 DRIVING RULES.

Subdivision 1. **Keep to the right.** 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.

Subd. 2. **Meeting.** 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.

Subd. 3. **Passing.** The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to the 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;

Subd. 4. **Passing on right.** The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle only upon the following conditions:

(a) When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn;

(b) Upon a street or highway with unobstructed pavement not occupied by parked vehicles of sufficient width for two or more lines of moving vehicles in each direction;

(c) Upon a one-way street, or upon any roadway on which traffic is restricted to one direction of movement, where the roadway is free from obstructions and of sufficient width for two or more lines of moving vehicles;

(d) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. In no event shall such movement be made by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway.

Subd. 5. **Driving left of roadway center.** (a) 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 oncoming 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;

(b) 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:

(1) 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;

(2) When approaching within 100 feet of any underpass or tunnel, or railroad grade crossing, or when approaching within 100 feet of or traversing any intersection within a city or without if so posted;

(3) 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.

**Subd. 6. One-way traffic.** (a) 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;

(b) A vehicle passing around a rotary traffic island shall be driven only to the right of such island.

**Subd. 7. Laned highways.** When any roadway has been divided into two 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 signposted 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;

(d) Whenever a bicycle lane has been established on a roadway, any person operating a motor vehicle on such roadway shall not drive in the bicycle lane except to park where parking is permitted, to enter or leave the highway, or to prepare for a turn as provided in section 169.19, subdivision 1.

**Subd. 8. Following vehicle too closely.** (a) 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.

(b) 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 500 feet of another vehicle. The provisions of this clause shall not be construed to prevent overtaking and passing nor shall the same apply upon any lane specially designated for use by motor trucks.

**Subd. 9. Divided highways; crossovers.** Whenever any highway has been divided into two or more roadways by leaving an intervening space or by a physical barrier or clearly indicated dividing section so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic, every vehicle shall be driven only upon the righthand roadway unless directed or permitted to use another roadway by official traffic-control devices or police officers. No vehicle shall be driven over, across, or within any such dividing space, barrier section, except through an opening in such physical barrier, or dividing section or space or at a crossover or intersection established by public authority.

**Subd. 10. Slow moving vehicles.** Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway, or when a specific lane is designated and posted for a specific type of traffic.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 32-39; 1939 c 430 s 7; 1947 c 428 s 15; 1951 c 363 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 2; 1963 c 357 s 5; 1963 c 627 s 1; 1971 c 138 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1978 c 739 s 7 (2720-182, 2720-183, 2720-184, 2720-185, 2720-186, 2720-187, 2720-188, 2720-189)

### 169.19 TURNING AND STARTING.

**Subdivision 1. Turning at intersection.** 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. Whenever practicable the left turn shall be made in that portion of the intersection to the left of the center of the intersection;

(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;

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

(5) Where both streets or roadways are one way, both the approach for a left turn and a left turn shall be made as close as practicable to the left-hand curb or edge of the roadway;

(6) 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;

(7) Whenever it is necessary for the driver of a motor vehicle to cross a bicycle lane adjacent to his lane of travel to make a turn, the driver shall drive the motor vehicle into the bicycle lane prior to making the turn, and shall make the turn, yielding the right of way to any vehicles approaching so close thereto as to constitute an immediate hazard.

Subd. 2. **U-turns.** No vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any curve, or upon the approach to or near the 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.

Subd. 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.

Subd. 4. **Change of course.** No person shall turn a vehicle at an intersection unless the vehicle is in proper position upon the roadway as required in this section, or turn a vehicle to enter a private road or driveway or otherwise turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left upon a highway unless and until the movement can be made with reasonable safety after giving an appropriate signal in the manner hereinafter provided.

Subd. 5. **Signal to turn.** A signal of intention to turn right or left shall be given continuously during not less than the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning.

Subd. 6. **Signal to stop.** 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.

Subd. 7. **Signaling methods.** 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 of public safety, 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.

Subd. 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 from and beyond the left side of the vehicle in the following manner and these signals shall indicate as follows:

(1) Left turn. — Hand and arm extended horizontally.

(2) Right turn. — Hand and arm extended upward, except that a bicyclist or motorcyclist may extend the right hand and arm horizontally to the right side of the bicycle or motorcycle.

(3) Stop or decrease speed. — Hand and arm extended downward.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 40-45; 1939 c 430 s 8; 1947 c 428 s 16; 1959 c 521 s 3; 1971 c 286 s 1; 1978 c 587 s 1; 1978 c 739 s 8,9 (2720-190, 2720-191, 2720-192, 2720-193, 2720-194, 2720-195)

## 169.20 RIGHT OF WAY.

Subdivision 1. **Approaching uncontrolled intersection.** When two vehicles enter an uncontrolled 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 driver of any vehicle traveling at an unlawful speed shall forfeit any right of way which he might otherwise have hereunder.

The foregoing rules are modified at through highways, and otherwise as hereinafter stated in this section.

Subd. 2. **Left turns.** The driver of a vehicle intending to turn to the left within an intersection or into an alley, private road, or driveway 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.

Subd. 3. **Through highway; stop sign.** 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.

Subd. 4. **Vehicle entering roadway.** The driver of a vehicle about to enter or cross a roadway from any place other than a roadway shall yield the right of way to all vehicles approaching on the roadway to be entered or crossed.

Subd. 5. **Emergency vehicle.** Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle equipped with at least one lighted lamp exhibiting red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle and, except where otherwise not required by law, when the driver is giving audible signal by siren, the driver of each 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 this position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle escorting the movement of a vehicle or load which is oversize or overweight need not sound an audible signal by siren but shall exhibit the light required by this paragraph. The driver of each other vehicle then shall yield the right of way, as required by this paragraph, to the emergency vehicle escorting the vehicle or load which is oversize or overweight.

Upon the approach of an authorized emergency vehicle the motorman of each street car and the operator of each trackless trolley car shall immediately stop such car clear of any intersection and keep it in this position and keep the doors and gates of the street car or trackless trolley car closed until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

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

Subd. 6. **Funeral procession.** 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 46-51; 1939 c 430 s 9; 1947 c 428 s 17; 1955 c 595 s 1; 1965 c 423 s 1; 1967 c 268 s 1; 1978 c 739 s 10 (2720-196, 2720-197, 2720-198, 2720-199, 2720-200, 2720-201)

### 169.201 YIELD SIGN.

The driver of a vehicle approaching a YIELD sign shall slow to a speed that is reasonable for conditions of traffic and visibility, and stop if necessary, and yield the right of way to any pedestrian legally crossing the roadway on which he is driving, and to all vehicles on the intersecting street or highway which are so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.



**History:** 1955 c 606 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 4; 1961 c 65 s 1

### 169.202 BLIND PERSONS CARRYING WHITE CANES.

Subdivision 1. **Limitation on carrying.** It shall be unlawful for any person to carry a white painted cane unless said person is a blind person.

Subd. 2. **Blind pedestrians have right of way.** Any person operating a motor vehicle in this state shall bring such motor vehicle to a stop and give the right of way at any intersection of any street, avenue, alley or other public highway to a blind pedestrian who is carrying a cane predominantly white or metallic in color, with or without red tip, or using a guide dog, when such blind person enters said intersection.

Subd. 3. [ Repealed, Ex1971 c 27 s 49 ]

**History:** 1945 c 369 s 1-3; 1949 c 391 s 1-3; 1971 c 70 s 2

NOTE: See also section 256C.03.

### 169.21 PEDESTRIANS.

Subdivision 1. **Obey traffic-control signals.** 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.

Subd. 2. **Rights in absence of signals.** 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 a crosswalk but no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. This provision shall not apply under the conditions as otherwise provided in this subdivision.

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 the stopped vehicle.

It is 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, while the member of the 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.

Subd. 3. **Crossing between intersections.** 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 other provisions of this section every driver of a vehicle shall: (a) exercise due care to avoid colliding with any bicycle or pedestrian upon any roadway and (b) give an audible signal when necessary and exercise proper precaution upon observing any child or any obviously confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway.

Subd. 4. **Use right half of crosswalks.** Pedestrians shall move when practicable upon the right half of crosswalks.

Subd. 5. **Walk on left side of roadway.** Pedestrians when walking along a roadway shall, when practicable, walk on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder giving way to oncoming traffic. Where sidewalks are provided and usable it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 52-55,57; 1939 c 430 s 10; 1947 c 428 s 18; 1973 c 193 s 1; 1974 c 379 s 2; 1978 c 739 s 11 (2720-202, 2720-203, 2720-204, 2720-205, 2720-207)

#### 169.215 SENIOR CITIZEN AND HANDICAPPED CROSSINGS.

Subdivision 1. **Designation of crossings.** Local authorities may designate a senior citizen or handicapped crossing on any street or highway in the vicinity of a senior citizen housing project, senior citizen nursing home, or residential care facility for handicapped persons on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation prescribed by the commissioner and subject to the uniform specifications adopted pursuant to subdivision 2. Designation of a senior citizen or handicapped crossing on a trunk highway is subject to the written consent of the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **Uniform specifications.** The commissioner shall adopt uniform specifications for senior citizen or handicapped crossings. The specifications shall include criteria for determining the need for a crossing and the type and design of traffic control devices or signals that may be used at the crossing. The specifications shall be incorporated as a part of the manual of uniform traffic control devices required pursuant to section 169.06.

**History:** 1979 c 185 s 1

#### 169.22 HITCHHIKING; SOLICITATION OF BUSINESS.

Subdivision 1. No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any private vehicle.

Subd. 2. No person shall stand on a roadway for the purpose of soliciting employment, business, or contributions from the occupant of any vehicle.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 56; 1974 c 379 s 3 (2720-206)

#### 169.221 [ Repealed, 1978 c 739 s 15 ]

#### 169.222 OPERATION OF BICYCLES.

Subdivision 1. **Traffic laws apply.** Every person operating a bicycle shall have all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle by this chapter, except in respect to those provisions in this chapter relating expressly to bicycles and in respect to those provisions of this chapter which by their nature cannot reasonably be applied to bicycles.

Subd. 2. **Manner and number riding.** No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except (a) on a baby seat attached to the bicycle, provided that the baby seat is equipped with a harness to hold the child securely in the seat and that protection is provided against the child's feet hitting the spokes of the wheel or (b) in a seat attached to the bicycle operator.

Subd. 3. **Clinging to vehicles.** No person riding upon any bicycle, coaster, roller skates, toboggan, sled, skateboard, or toy vehicle shall attach the same or himself to any street car or vehicle upon a roadway.

Subd. 4. **Riding on roadways.** (a) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except under any of the following situations:

(i) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

(ii) When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.

(iii) When reasonably necessary to avoid conditions, including fixed or moving objects, vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or narrow width lanes, that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge.

(b) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast and shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.

(c) A person operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk, or across a roadway on a crosswalk, shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal when necessary before overtaking and passing any pedestrian. No person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk within a business district unless permitted by local authorities. Local authorities may prohibit the operation of bicycles on any sidewalk or crosswalk under their jurisdiction.

A person lawfully operating a bicycle on a sidewalk, or across a roadway on a crosswalk, shall have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances.

**Subd. 5. Carrying articles.** No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars or from properly operating the brakes of the bicycle.

**Subd. 6. Bicycle equipment.** (a) No person shall operate a bicycle at night-time unless the bicycle or its operator is equipped with a lamp which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector of a type approved by the department of public safety which is visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. No person may operate a bicycle at any time when there is not sufficient light to render persons and vehicles on the highway clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet ahead unless the bicycle or its operator is equipped with reflective surfaces that shall be visible during the hours of darkness from 600 feet when viewed in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.

The reflective surfaces shall include reflective materials on each side of each pedal to indicate their presence from the front or the rear and with a minimum of 20 square inches of reflective material on each side of the bicycle or its operator. Any bicycle equipped with side reflectors as required by regulations for new bicycles prescribed by the United States consumer product safety commission shall be considered to meet the requirements for side reflectorization contained in this subdivision.

(b) No person shall operate a bicycle unless it is equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(c) No person shall operate upon a highway any bicycle equipped with handlebars so raised that the operator must elevate his hands above the level of his shoulders in order to grasp the normal steering grip area.

(d) No person shall operate upon a highway any bicycle which is of such a size as to prevent the operator from stopping the bicycle, supporting it with at least one foot on the highway surface and restarting in a safe manner.

**Subd. 7. Sale with reflectors and other equipment.** No person shall sell or offer for sale any new bicycle unless it is equipped with reflectors and other equipment as required by subdivision 6, clauses (a) and (b) and by the regulations for new bicycles prescribed by the United States consumer product safety commission.

Subd. 8. **Turning and lane changes.** An arm signal to turn right or left shall be given continuously during the last 100 feet traveled by the bicycle before turning, unless the arm is needed to control the bicycle, and shall be given while the bicycle is stopped waiting to turn.

Subd. 9. **Bicycle parking.** (a) A person may park a bicycle on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by local authorities. A bicycle parked on a sidewalk shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic.

(b) A bicycle may be parked on a roadway at any location where parking is allowed if it is parked in such a manner that it does not obstruct the movement of a legally parked motor vehicle.

Subd. 10. **Bicycle events.** (a) Bicycle events, parades, contests, or racing on a highway shall not be unlawful when approved by state or local authorities having jurisdiction over that highway. Approval shall be granted only under conditions which assure reasonable safety for all participants, spectators and other highway users, and which prevent unreasonable interference with traffic flow which would seriously inconvenience other highway users.

(b) By agreement with the approving authority, participants in an approved bicycle highway event may be exempted from compliance with any traffic laws otherwise applicable thereto, provided that traffic control is adequate to assure the safety of all highway users.

**History:** 1978 c 739 s 12

### 169.223 MOTORIZED BICYCLES.

Subdivision 1. Except as provided in this section the provisions of section 169.222 relating to the operation of bicycles on roadways are applicable to the operation and the parking of motorized bicycles.

Subd. 2. Motorized bicycles shall not be operated on any bicycle way or bicycle lane, as those terms are defined in section 160.263.

Subd. 3. No person shall operate a motorized bicycle upon a sidewalk at any time, except when such operation is necessary for the most direct access to a roadway from a driveway, alley or building.

Subd. 4. Every motorized bicycle shall be subject to the same requirements as to lighting and brake equipment as apply to motorcycles, except that the provisions of section 169.974, subdivision 5, clause (i), shall not apply to motorized bicycles.

**History:** 1977 c 214 s 8; 1979 c 227 s 1

**169.23** [ Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 73 ]

**169.24** [ Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17 ]

### 169.25 SAFETY ZONE.

No vehicle shall at any time be driven through a safety zone.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 60 (2720-210)

### 169.26 SPECIAL STOPS AT RAILROADS.

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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 61 (2720-211)

**169.27** [ Repealed, 1976 c 166 s 119 ]

**169.28 CERTAIN VEHICLES TO STOP AT RAILROADS.**

The driver of any motor vehicle carrying passengers for hire, or of any school bus whether carrying passengers or not, or of any vehicle carrying explosive substances or flammable liquids, or liquid gas under pressure 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.

A school bus shall not be flagged across railroad grade crossings except at such railroad grade crossings as the local school administrative officer may designate.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 63; Ex1937 c 38 s 1; 1961 c 29 s 1; 1969 c 146 s 2 (2720-213)

NOTE: See also section 219.21.

**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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 64 (2720-214)

NOTE: See also section 219.21.

**169.30 DESIGNATION OF THROUGH HIGHWAYS.**

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 or yield signs at entrances thereto or may designate any intersection as a stop or yield 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 or yield intersections on state trunk highways.

Every driver of a vehicle shall stop at a stop sign or at a clearly marked stop line before entering the intersection, except when directed to proceed by a police officer or traffic-control signal.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 65; 1939 c 430 s 11; 1961 c 16 s 1 (2720-215)

### 169.305 CONTROLLED ACCESS REGULATIONS AND PENALTIES.

Subdivision 1. (a) No person shall drive a vehicle onto or from any controlled access highway except at such entrances and exits as are established by public authority.

(b) When special crossovers between the main roadways of a controlled access highway are provided for emergency vehicles or maintenance equipment and such crossovers are signed to prohibit "U" turns, it shall be unlawful for any vehicle, except an emergency vehicle, maintenance equipment, or construction equipment including contractor's and state owned equipment when operating within a marked construction zone, to use such crossover. Vehicles owned and operated by elderly and needy persons under contract with the commissioner of transportation pursuant to section 160.282 for maintenance services on highway rest stop and tourist centers outside the seven county metropolitan area as defined in section 473.122, may also use these crossovers while those persons are proceeding to or from work in the rest area or tourist center if authorized by the commissioner, and the vehicle carries on its roof a distinctive flag designed and issued by the commissioner. For the purposes of this clause "emergency vehicle" includes a wrecker if it is on the way to the location of an accident or a disabled vehicle.

(c) The commissioner of transportation may by order, and any public authority may by ordinance, with respect to any controlled access highway under their jurisdictions prohibit or regulate the use of any such highway by pedestrians, bicycles, or other nonmotorized traffic, or by motorized bicycles, or by any class or kind of traffic which is found to be incompatible with the normal and safe flow of traffic.

(d) The commissioner of transportation or the public authority adopting any such prohibitory regulations shall erect and maintain official signs on the controlled access highway on which such regulations are applicable and when so erected no person shall disobey the restrictions stated on such signs.

Subd. 2. Except for a driver of an authorized emergency vehicle in the course of performing his duties, no driver of a vehicle shall back the same upon the roadway or shoulder of any controlled access highway.

Subd. 3. Any person violating the provisions of this section or any order or ordinance promulgated or enacted by the commissioner of transportation or a public authority pursuant thereto is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

**History:** 1959 c 439 s 1; 1961 c 72 s 1; 1971 c 236 s 1; Ex1971 c 27 s 9; 1974 c 406 s 39; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1977 c 214 s 9; 1978 c 494 s 2; 1980 c 533 s 12

### 169.31 STOP AT 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 and shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian and all other traffic on the sidewalk.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 66; 1978 c 739 s 13 (2720-216)

### 169.315 OPENING AND CLOSING VEHICLE DOORS.

No person shall open any door on a motor vehicle unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic. No person shall allow any door on the side of a vehicle adjacent to moving traffic to remain open for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.

**History:** 1978 c 739 s 14

### 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.

This section shall not apply to the driver of a school bus stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child or school children provided the school bus is equipped and identified as provided in section 169.44 and is displaying the flashing red lamps and stop arm required therein.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 67; 1969 c 146 s 3 (2720-217)

### 169.33 POLICE 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 68; 1939 c 430 s 12 (2720-218)

### 169.34 PROHIBITIONS; STOPPING, PARKING.

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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 69; Ex1937 c 38 s 1; 1939 c 430 s 13 (2720-219)

### **169.342 GOOD SAMARITAN; EXCEPTION TO STOPPING AND PARKING.**

A person who stops or parks his motor vehicle on any highway or street for the sole purpose of aiding another motorist who signals for assistance by raising the hood of the vehicle or displaying a flag, flare or similar signal is not in violation of any law, ordinance, or regulation prohibiting the stopping or parking of a motor vehicle, and no peace officer shall issue a traffic ticket therefor if:

(a) The motorist in distress is not already being given aid or assistance;

(b) The person takes reasonable safety precautions in stopping and parking his vehicle, and conforms with other laws regulating the stopping and parking of vehicles;

(c) The person is not in violation of traffic laws or regulations other than the prohibition against stopping and parking; and

(d) The person promptly leaves the scene if directed to leave by a peace officer.

This section does not apply to any person who stops or parks a vehicle next to an unattended vehicle.

**History:** 1977 c 167 s 1

### **169.345 PARKING PRIVILEGES FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.**

**Subdivision 1. Scope of privilege.** Any physically handicapped person who displays prominently upon the vehicle parked by him or under his direction and for his use, the distinguishing certificate specified in this section shall be entitled to courtesy in the parking of the vehicle and be relieved of any liability with respect to parking except as provided in sections 169.32 and 169.34; provided that any municipal governing body may, by ordinance, prohibit parking on any street or highway for the purpose of creating a fire lane, or to provide for the accommodation of heavy traffic during morning and afternoon rush hours and the privileges extended to such handicapped persons shall not apply on streets or highways where and at such time parking is prohibited. The certificate specified in this section shall also serve to identify vehicles properly parked in designated handicapped parking spaces as provided in section 169.346.

**Subd. 2. Definitions.** For the purpose of this section physically handicapped means any person who has sustained an amputation or material disability of either or both arms or legs, or who has been otherwise disabled in any manner rendering it difficult and burdensome for him to walk.



Subd. 3. **Identifying certificate.** (a) The division of driver and vehicle services in the department of public safety shall issue without charge a special identifying certificate for a marked motor vehicle to any physically handicapped applicant upon submission by the applicant of a certificate by a qualified physician to the division that he is a physically handicapped person within the meaning of subdivision 2. (b) Upon submission of satisfactory evidence that a motor vehicle is used for the purpose of transporting physically handicapped persons within the meaning of subdivision 2, the division may issue without charge a special identifying certificate or insignia for the vehicle. The operator of the vehicle, when displaying the certificate or insignia, has the same parking privileges provided in subdivision 1 for the physically handicapped during the period the vehicle is in use for transporting physically handicapped persons.

The commissioner of public safety shall determine the form, size and promulgate rules and regulations governing their issuance and use necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The physician's certificate shall specify whether the disability is permanent or temporary, and if temporary, the opinion of the physician as to the duration of the disability. The commissioner may issue special identifying certificates to temporarily physically handicapped persons for limited periods of time.

Subd. 4. **Revocation, penalty.** If the police of the state or any city, or other local government shall find that the certificate is being improperly used, they shall report to the division of driver and vehicle services in the department of public safety any violation and the commissioner of public safety may, in his discretion, remove the privilege.

Subd. 5. [ Repealed, 1967 c 389 s 2 ]

**History:** 1965 c 844 s 1-5; 1967 c 389 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 15; Ex1971 c 27 s 10; 1977 c 22 s 1,2; 1979 c 31 s 1; 1979 c 277 s 4

### **169.346 PARKING FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED; PROHIBITIONS; PENALTIES.**

Subdivision 1. No person shall park a motor vehicle in a parking space designated and reserved for the physically handicapped, on either private or public property, or exercise the parking privilege provided in section 169.345, unless:

(a) That person is a physically handicapped person as defined in section 169.345, subdivision 2, or the person is transporting such a physically handicapped person; and

(b) The vehicle visibly displays the certificate or license plate issued to physically handicapped persons or the certificate issued to persons transporting physically handicapped persons by the department of public safety pursuant to sections 169.345, subdivision 3, or 168.021 or if the vehicle visibly displays an equivalent certificate, insignia or license plate issued by another state or one of its political subdivisions.

Subd. 2. Handicapped parking spaces shall be designated and identified by the posting of signs incorporating the international symbol of access in white on blue and indicating that the parking space is reserved for the handicapped with vehicles displaying the required certificate license plates or insignia. Spaces which have been clearly identified for handicapped parking by signs which are not in compliance with the design standards as set forth in this subdivision shall also be deemed designated and reserved for the physically handicapped for the purposes of this section. A sign posted for the purpose of this section shall be visible from inside a vehicle parked in the space and shall be kept clear of snow or other obstructions which block its visibility.

Subd. 3. Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision 1 is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$15 nor more than \$100.

This subdivision shall be enforced in the same manner as parking ordinances or regulations are enforced in the governmental subdivision in which the violation occurs. A handicapped person charged with violating subdivision 1 because he parked in a handicapped parking space without the required certificate or insignia shall not be convicted if he produces in court or prior to the court appearance the required certificate or insignia and demonstrates that he was entitled to the certificate or insignia at the time of arrest or tagging.

**History:** 1977 c 205 s 1; 1979 c 31 s 3; 1979 c 277 s 5-7

### 169.35 PARKING.

Subdivision 1. **Parallel to curb.** Except where angle parking is permitted by local ordinance, each vehicle stopped or parked upon a two-way roadway where there is an adjacent curb shall be so stopped or parked with the right-hand wheels of the 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.

Subd. 2. **Where no curb.** Upon streets and highways not having a curb each vehicle stopped or parked shall be stopped or parked parallel with and to the right of the paved or improved or main traveled part of the street or highway.

Subd. 3. **One-way roadway.** Local authorities with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction and with the consent of the commissioner with respect to state trunk highways may by ordinance permit parking of vehicles with the left hand wheels adjacent to and within 12 inches of the left hand curb of a one-way roadway.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 70; Ex1937 c 38 s 1; 1939 c 430 s 14; 1947 c 428 s 21 (2720-220)

### 169.36 BRAKES TO 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 71 (2720-221)

### 169.37 OBSTRUCTING VIEW OF DRIVER.

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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 72 (2720-222)

### 169.38 DRIVING IN ROUGH TERRAIN.

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.

**History:** 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 74 (2720-224)

**169.40 FIRE APPARATUS; FIRE STATIONS.**

Subdivision 1. 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.

Subd. 2. No person shall drive a vehicle within 50 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station while fire apparatus is being driven into the fire station unless he is on official business.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 75; 1967 c 281 s 1 (2720-225)

**169.41 CROSSING 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 76 (2720-226)

**169.42 LITTERING OR PLACING REFUSE UPON HIGHWAYS OR ADJACENT LANDS, PRIVATE PROPERTY, PARKS OR PUBLIC PLACES; DROPPING OBJECTS ON VEHICLES.**

Subdivision 1. No person shall throw, deposit, place or dump, or cause to be thrown, deposited, placed or dumped upon any street or highway or upon any public or privately owned land adjacent thereto without the owner's consent any snow, ice, glass bottle, glass, nails, tacks, wire, cans, garbage, swill, papers, ashes, refuse, carcass of any dead animal, offal, trash or rubbish or any other form of offensive matter or any other substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle upon any such street or highway.

Subd. 2. MS 1969 [ Repealed, Ex1971 c 27 s 49 ]

Subd. 2. Any person who drops, or permits to be dropped or thrown, upon any highway any of the material specified in subdivision 1, shall immediately remove the same or cause it to be removed.

Subd. 3. 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.

Subd. 4. No person shall drop or hurl any destructive or injurious material or object at or upon any motor vehicle upon any highway or the occupants thereof.

Subd. 5. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. The record of any conviction of or plea of guilty under this section of a person operating a motor vehicle shall be immediately forwarded to the department of public safety for inclusion upon that offender's driving record. Any second offense or offense thereafter under this section shall require a minimum fine in the amount of \$100. Any judge or magistrate may, for any violation of this section, order the offender to pick up litter along any public highway or road for four to eight hours under the direction of the department of transportation, with the option of a jail sentence being imposed.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 77; 1951 c 663 s 1,2; 1967 c 104 s 1; 1973 c 299 s 1; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1980 c 533 s 13 (2720-227)

### 169.421 CIVIL LIABILITY FOR LITTERING.

Subdivision 1. **Finding.** The legislature finds that the cost of removal and disposal of litter from vehicles is an onerous burden upon the public, and that the criminal law is not always adequate in dealing with the problem. This requires the imposition of civil liability as provided in this section.

Subd. 2. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "owner" as to a vehicle means the owner of the vehicle, but in the case of a leased vehicle means the lessee.

Subd. 3. **Civil liability imposed.** If any litter, including glass, nails, tacks, wire, cans, bottles, garbage, papers, refuse, trash, or any form of offensive matter is thrown, deposited, placed, or dumped from a vehicle upon any street or highway, public land, or upon private land without the consent of the owner of the land, a violation of this subdivision occurs and civil liability is imposed upon the owner of the vehicle. The driver and passengers riding in a vehicle are constituted as the agents of the owner of the vehicle for purposes of this subdivision. It is a defense to any action brought pursuant to this section that the vehicle was stolen. This section is not applicable to the owner of a vehicle transporting persons for hire or transporting school children.

Subd. 4. **Damages.** Any person or governmental body injured by a violation of subdivision 3 may bring a civil action and recover as damages the actual costs of removal and disposal of the litter plus exemplary damages not to exceed \$100, together with costs and disbursements, including reasonable attorney's fees, as determined by the court.

Subd. 5. **Procedures.** A civil action may be commenced as is any civil action or by the issuance of a citation to the owner of the vehicle by any law enforcement officer who has reason to believe that a violation has occurred. Actions commenced by the issuance of a citation by a law enforcement officer shall be tried by the prosecuting authority responsible for misdemeanor prosecutions in the jurisdiction where a violation occurs. Any damages recovered in an action brought by a public agency shall be deposited in the treasury of the jurisdiction trying the action and distributed as provided in section 487.33. Any county or county municipal court may establish a separate civil calendar for cases brought under this section.

Subd. 6. **Relationship to criminal law; election of remedies.** If an act is a violation of this section and of a statute or ordinance providing a criminal penalty, a public agency elects its remedy by commencing either an action under this section or a criminal prosecution, and the commencement of one type of action by a public agency is a bar to its bringing of the other.

Subd. 7. **Payment.** Any county or county municipal court may establish a schedule of costs and civil damages, and procedures for payment, in cases brought by a public agency under which the defendant may consent to default judgment and make payment according to the schedule without making a personal appearance in court.

Subd. 8. **Citation.** This section may be cited as the civil litter act.

**History:** 1979 c 235 s 1

### 169.43 SWINGING GATES.

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 on the tail-board renders impossible the closing of the tail-board.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 78,79; 1947 c 428 s 22; 1949 c 263; 1971 c 320 s 1 (2720-228, 2720-229)

#### **169.44 SCHOOL BUSES; STOP SIGNALS; CONDUCT OF OTHER VEHICLES.**

**Subdivision 1. Meeting or overtaking buses; stop signals; stopping.** The driver of a vehicle upon a street or highway, upon meeting or overtaking from front or rear any school bus which has stopped on the street or highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child or children, shall stop the vehicle not less than 20 feet from the bus when the bus is stopped and is displaying an extended stop signal arm and flashing red signals and shall remain stopped until the school bus driver retracts the stop signal arm and extinguishes the flashing red signals. A failure to stop as required by this subdivision is a misdemeanor. The stop signal arm of a vehicle outwardly equipped and identified as a school bus shall be used in conjunction with the flashing red signals only when the school bus is stopped on a street or highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child or children.

**Subd. 1a. Equipment and color requirements.** Every school bus with a seating capacity in excess of 16 persons and every vehicle purchased for delivery after April 1, 1977 for use in the state of Minnesota as a school bus, with a seating capacity in excess of ten persons including the driver, shall be equipped with a stop signal arm, pre-warning flashing amber signals and flashing red signals. Every new school bus purchased for delivery after June 1, 1973, for use in the state of Minnesota as a school bus with a seating capacity in excess of 16 persons and every new vehicle purchased for delivery after April 1, 1977 for use in the state of Minnesota as a school bus, with a seating capacity in excess of ten persons including the driver, shall be of a uniform color, national school bus glossy yellow. Any school bus substantially repainted after June 1, 1973 shall be painted national school bus glossy yellow. Any school bus or vehicle which satisfies these equipment and color requirements and which bears signs containing the words "school bus" as provided in subdivision 3 shall be deemed to be outwardly equipped and identified as a school bus for purposes of this section.

**Subd. 1b. Compliance.** Vehicles district owned or under contract transporting school children to or from school which are not required to be outwardly equipped and identified as school buses pursuant to subdivision 1a shall comply with state board of education rules and regulations relating to, but not limited to, construction, design, equipment, color, identification, and operation.

**Subd. 1c. Violation; penalty.** (1) A peace officer may arrest the driver of a motor vehicle if the peace officer has probable cause to believe that the driver has operated the vehicle in violation of subdivision 1 within the past two hours.

(2) The owner or, in the case of a leased vehicle, the lessee of a motor vehicle, may be fined not to exceed \$100, if a motor vehicle owned or leased by the person is operated in violation of subdivision 1. The owner or lessee may not be so fined if the motor vehicle was stolen, or if conviction of another is had for a violation of subdivision 1. This subdivision does not apply to a lessor of a motor vehicle if the lessor keeps a record of the name and address of the lessee. This subdivision does not prohibit or limit the prosecution of a motor vehicle operator for violating subdivision 1. A violation of this clause does not constitute grounds for revocation or suspension of the owner's driver's license.

Subd. 2. **Loading and unloading passengers; use of signals.** (a) Drivers of a vehicle outwardly equipped and identified as a school bus shall actuate the pre-warning flashing amber signals of the bus before stopping to load or unload a school child or children at least 300 feet when operating outside an incorporated municipality and at least 100 feet when operating within an incorporated municipality and, upon stopping for such purpose, such drivers shall extend the stop signal arm and actuate the flashing red signals and shall not retract the stop signal arm and extinguish the flashing red signals until loading or unloading is completed and persons who must cross the street or highway are safely across.

(b) School bus drivers shall not actuate the pre-warning flashing amber signals or flashing red signals:

(1) in special school bus loading areas where the bus is entirely off the traveled portion of the road;

(2) in residence or business districts of cities except when directed by the local school administrator;

(3) when a school bus is being used on a highway for purposes other than the actual transportation of school children to or from school or a school approved activity, in which event the words "school bus" on the front and rear of the bus shall be removed or completely concealed; and

(4) at railroad grade crossings.

(c) Where school children must cross the road before boarding or after being discharged from the bus, the driver of a school bus or a school bus patrol may supervise such crossings making use of the standard school patrol flag or signal as approved and prescribed by the commissioner of public safety. When children are alighting from a school bus, and not crossing the road, the driver shall visually ascertain that alighting children shall be a safe distance from the bus before moving the bus.

(d) Vehicles not outwardly equipped and identified as school buses shall load or unload school children only from the right hand side of the vehicle, except on a one way street such vehicle shall load or unload school children only from the curb side of the vehicle.

Subd. 3. **Sign on bus.** This section shall be applicable only in the event the school bus shall bear upon the front and rear thereof a plainly visible sign containing the words "school bus" in letters not less than eight inches in height, which shall be removed or covered when the vehicle is not in use as a school bus.

Subd. 4. **Separated roadways.** Except as hereinafter provided, the driver of a vehicle upon a highway with separated roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus which is upon a different roadway. A separated roadway shall mean a road which is separated from a parallel road by a safety isle or safety zone.

Subd. 5. [ Repealed, 1979 c 334 art 2 s 14 ]

Subd. 6. **Passenger capacity.** The number of pupils or other authorized passengers transported in or assigned to a school bus shall not be more than the number of pupils or passengers that can be seated. Seating capacity shall be adjusted according to passenger's individual physical size, but not to exceed manufacturers' rated seating capacity, and no person shall stand when the bus is in motion.

Subd. 7. [ Repealed, 1979 c 334 art 2 s 14 ]

Subd. 8. **Vehicles used as other than school buses.** A vehicle which is no longer used as a school bus shall not be operated on a public street or highway unless it is painted a color other than that required by law for school buses, including for purposes of this subdivision, Minnesota school bus golden orange,

and all school bus related equipment and printing shall be removed from said vehicles. Violation of this subdivision is a misdemeanor.

Subd. 9. **Seat belts.** New school buses purchased after July 1, 1969 shall be equipped with driver seat belts and seat belt assemblies of the type described in section 169.685, subdivision 3. All drivers shall be required to use these seat belts.

Subd. 10. **Approved flashing signals; system of operation.** Flashing pre-warning amber signals and flashing red signals shall be of a type approved by the commissioner of public safety. Such signals shall be a complete system meeting minimum standards as prescribed by state board of education rules and regulations.

Subd. 11. **Recapped tires.** Recapped tires shall not be used on the front wheels of a school bus.

Subd. 12. **Aisle and exit.** The driver of a school bus shall keep the aisle and emergency exit of a school bus unobstructed at all times when children are being transported.

Subd. 13. **Trailer behind a school bus.** A school bus may pull a trailer, as defined by section 169.01, subdivision 10, only when traveling to or from co-curricular or extra curricular activities, as defined in section 123.38.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 80; 1939 c 430 s 15; 1947 c 428 s 23; 1953 c 326 s 1; 1961 c 48 s 1; 1967 c 500 s 1; 1969 c 146 s 4-11; 1971 c 491 s 13,14; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 384 s 1-6; 1978 c 629 s 1; 1979 c 308 s 1; 1979 c 334 art 2 s 9-12 (2720-230)

#### 169.45 SCHOOL BUSES.

The state board of education shall have sole and exclusive authority to adopt and enforce regulations not inconsistent with this chapter to govern the design, color, and operation of school buses used for the transportation of school children, when owned and operated by a school district or privately owned and operated under a contract with a school district, and these regulations shall be made a part of any such contract by reference. Each school district, its officers and employees, and each person employed under such a contract is subject to these regulations.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 81; 1947 c 428 s 24; 1974 c 332 s 2 (2720-231)

#### 169.451 SCHOOL BUS INSPECTION.

Subdivision 1. The Minnesota highway patrol shall inspect every school bus at least semiannually to ascertain whether its construction, design, equipment, and color comply with all provisions of law.

Subd. 2. No person shall drive, or no owner shall knowingly permit or cause to be driven, any school bus unless there is displayed thereon a certificate issued by the commissioner of public safety stating that on a certain date, which shall be within seven months of the date of operation, a member of the Minnesota highway patrol inspected the bus and found that on the date of inspection the bus complied with the applicable provisions of state law relating to construction, design, equipment, and color. The commissioner of public safety shall provide by rule or regulation for the issuance and display of distinctive inspection certificates.

Subd. 3. Not later than January 1, 1975 the commissioner of public safety shall provide by rule and regulation a point system for evaluating the effect on safety operation of any variance from law detected during school bus inspections conducted pursuant to subdivision 1.

**History:** 1971 c 327 s 1; 1973 c 80 s 1; 1974 c 332 s 3

#### 169.46 HITCHING BEHIND 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 82 (2720-232)

#### 169.467 MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS; DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. As used in sections 169.467 to 169.469, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle driven or drawn by mechanical power manufactured primarily for use on the public streets, roads and highways, except any vehicle operated exclusively on a rail or rails.

Subd. 3. "New motor vehicle" or "new vehicle" means a motor vehicle as defined herein heretofore unregistered.

Subd. 4. "New item of motor vehicle equipment" or "new equipment" means any option, device, accessory or other equipment in the possession of a retail merchant including an automobile dealer prior to its initial retail sale designed to be attached to a motor vehicle as a part thereof or to be used in conjunction therewith.

Subd. 5. "Motor vehicle safety standard" means a minimum standard for motor vehicle performance, or motor vehicle equipment performance which is practicable, which meets the need for motor vehicle safety and which provides objective criteria.

**History:** 1974 c 21 s 1

#### 169.468 REGULATIONS.

Subdivision 1. The commissioner of public safety, pursuant to the administrative procedure act, may adopt and enforce regulations in substantial conformity with federal motor vehicle safety standards established by the United States secretary of transportation pursuant to the national traffic and motor vehicle safety act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-563) with respect to any new motor vehicle or new item of motor vehicle equipment applicable to the same aspect of performance of such new vehicle or new equipment.

Subd. 2. In the absence of a motor vehicle safety standard adopted pursuant to the national traffic and motor vehicle safety act of 1966 or if any such standard is not applicable to new vehicles or new equipment manufactured and first sold in the state of Minnesota, the commissioner of public safety may require new vehicles and specific types of new equipment to be tested and approved for compliance with the requirements of this chapter, or any regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter. The commissioner shall approve or disapprove of the vehicle or equipment within a reasonable time after it is submitted. Approval may be based upon a certificate of approval or test report furnished to the commissioner by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. If such new vehicle or new equipment does not conform to the provisions of this chapter, or to such regulations adopted by the commissioner of public safety, no person shall sell, offer for sale, or use any such new vehicle or new equipment. The commissioner of public safety is authorized to set and collect a reasonable fee from the manufacturer or distributor for the testing and approval of all new vehicles and specific types of new equipment upon which approval is required under this section. Such fee may be sufficient in amount to reimburse the department of public safety for all costs connected with such test and approval. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any approval based on a cer-



tificate of approval or test report furnished by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

Subd. 3. A federal motor vehicle safety standard adopted by the commissioner of public safety which conflicts with an equipment provision of this chapter, applicable to the same aspect of performance, shall supersede, on its effective date, the conflicting equipment provision of this chapter, with respect to new motor vehicles.

Subd. 4. Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1974 c 21 s 2; 1978 c 494 s 3

#### 169.469 INJUNCTION.

Subdivision 1. The district courts of this state have the authority to restrain or enjoin a violation or threatened violation of section 169.468.

Subd. 2. Whenever it appears to the satisfaction of the attorney general that any party has sold or offered for sale or is selling or offering for sale any such new motor vehicle or new item of motor vehicle equipment in violation of this section, he may, in the name of the state, seek injunctive relief in any court of competent jurisdiction against any such violation or threatened violation.

**History:** 1974 c 21 s 3

#### 169.47 UNSAFE EQUIPMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Misdemeanor.** It is unlawful and punishable as hereinafter provided 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. For purposes of this section, a specialized vehicle resembling a low-slung two wheel trailer having a short bed or platform shall be deemed to be an implement of husbandry when such vehicle is used exclusively to transport implements of husbandry, provided, however, that no such vehicle shall operate on the highway before sunrise or after sunset unless proper lighting is affixed to the implement being drawn.

Subd. 2. [ Repealed, 1978 c 494 s 6 ]

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 83; 1939 c 430 s 16; 1969 c 256 s 1; Ex1971 c 27 s 11; 1973 c 730 s 1 (2720-233)

#### 169.471 TELEVISION; HEADPHONES.

Subdivision 1. No television screen shall be installed or used in any motor vehicle at any point forward of the back of the driver's seat, or which is visible to the driver while operating the motor vehicle.

Subd. 2. No person, while operating a motor vehicle, shall wear headphones or earphones which are used in both ears simultaneously for purposes of receiving or listening to broadcasts or reproductions from radios, tapedecks, or other sound producing or transmitting devices. This section shall not prohibit the use, however, of hearing aid devices by persons in need thereof.

**History:** 1949 c 78 s 1,2; Ex1971 c 27 s 12; 1974 c 460 s 1

**169.48 VEHICLE LIGHTING.**

Every vehicle upon a highway within this state, at any time from sunset to sunrise and at any other time when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog or other conditions or 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. In addition to the other requirements of this paragraph, every school bus transporting children upon a highway within this state, at any time from a half hour before sunrise to a half hour after sunset, shall display lighted lamps and illuminating devices as required by this paragraph, except that the operator shall use the lower most distribution of light specified in section 169.60 unless conditions warrant otherwise.

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 center of such lamps or devices. Parking lamps shall not be used in lieu of head lamps to satisfy the requirements of this section.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 84; 1967 c 218 s 1; 1974 c 134 s 1 (2720-234)

**169.49 HEADLAMPS.**

Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall be equipped with at least two head lamps, with at least 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 motorcycle 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 85; 1957 c 754 s 1 (2720-235)

**169.50 REAR LAMPS.**

**Subdivision 1. Requirements.** Every motor vehicle and every vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles shall be equipped with at least one tail lamp, exhibiting a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear. And further, every such above-mentioned vehicle, other than a truck-tractor, registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1960, shall be equipped with at least two tail lamps mounted on the rear, on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, which, when lighted as herein required, shall comply with the provisions of this section.

**Subd. 2. License plates.** 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 legible from a distance of 50 feet to the rear. Any rear lamp or rear lamps, together with any separate lamp for illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted.

**Subd. 3. Reflectors.** On and after January 1, 1960, each new motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, hereafter sold and each such vehicle hereafter operated on a highway, shall carry at the rear either as a part of the rear lamp, or separately, at least two reflectors. The reflectors shall be of a type approved by the commissioner of public safety and shall be mounted as close as is practicable to the extreme edges of the vehicle at a height not more than 60, nor less than 20

inches above the surface upon which the vehicle stands. Each such reflector shall be so designed and maintained as to be visible at night from all distances within 300 to 50 feet from the vehicle, except that on a commercial vehicle the reflectors shall be visible from all distances within 500 to 50 feet from the vehicle, when directly in front of a motor vehicle displaying lawfully lighted headlamps.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 86; 1947 c 428 s 25; 1953 c 201 s 1; 1957 c 754 s 2; 1959 c 215 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 6,7; 1971 c 491 s 15 (2720-236)

#### 169.51 CLEARANCE AND MARKER LAMPS.

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 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 87 (2720-237)

#### 169.52 PROJECTING LOADS; LIGHTS AND FLAGS.

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, yellow or orange flag or cloth not less than 16 inches square.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 88; 1973 c 56 s 1 (2720-238)

#### 169.522 SLOW MOVING VEHICLES, SIGNS REQUIRED.

Subdivision 1. All animal-drawn vehicles, implements of husbandry and other machinery, including all road construction machinery, which are designed for operation at a speed of 25 miles per hour or less shall display a triangular slow moving vehicle emblem except when being used in actual construction and maintenance work and traveling within the limits of a construction area which is marked in accordance with requirements of the manual of uniform traffic control

devices, as set forth in section 169.06. Such emblem shall be mounted so as to be visible from a distance of not less than 600 feet to the rear. When a primary power unit towing an implement of husbandry or other machinery displays a slow moving vehicle emblem visible from a distance of 600 feet to the rear, it shall not be necessary to display a similar emblem on the secondary unit. After January 1, 1975 all slow moving vehicle emblems sold in this state shall be so designed that when properly mounted they are visible from a distance of not less than 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beam of head lamps on a motor vehicle. The commissioner of public safety shall adopt standards and specifications for the design and position of mounting the slow moving vehicle emblem. Such standards and specifications shall be adopted by rule and regulation in accordance with the administrative procedure act. A violation of this section shall not be admissible evidence in any civil cause of action arising prior to January 1, 1970.

Subd. 2. The use of this emblem shall be restricted to the slow moving vehicles specified in subdivision 1 and its use on any other type of vehicle or stationary object on the highway is prohibited.

Subd. 3. No person shall sell, lease, rent, or operate any slow moving vehicle, as defined in subdivision 1, except those units designed to be completely mounted on a primary power unit, which is manufactured or assembled on or after July 1, 1967, unless such vehicle is equipped with a slow moving vehicle emblem mounting device as specified in subdivision 1. Provided however, no slow moving vehicle shall be operated without such slow moving vehicle emblem after January 1, 1968.

**History:** 1967 c 309 s 1; 1971 c 491 s 16; 1974 c 57 s 1

#### **169.53 LIGHTS FOR PARKED VEHICLES.**

When a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a highway or shoulder adjacent thereto during the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required, it shall be equipped with one or more lamps which shall exhibit a white or amber light on the roadway side visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the 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 a 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 the highway. Any lighted head lamps upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 89; 1947 c 428 s 26; 1959 c 96 s 1 (2720-239)

**169.54** [ Repealed, 1951 c 132 s 1 ]

#### **169.55 LIGHTS ON ALL VEHICLES.**

Subdivision 1. At the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required each vehicle including an animal-drawn vehicle and any vehicle specifically excepted in sections 169.47 to 169.79, with respect to equipment and not hereinbefore specifically required to be equipped with lamps, shall be equipped with one or more lighted lamps or lanterns projecting a white light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and with a lamp or lantern exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, except that reflectors meeting the maximum requirements of this chapter may be used in lieu of the lights required in this subdivision. It shall be unlawful except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, to project a white light to the rear of any such vehicle while traveling on any street or highway, unless such vehicle is moving in reverse. An authorized emergency vehicle may display an oscillating, alternating, or rotating white light used in connection with an oscillating, alternating or rotating red light when responding to emergency calls.

Subd. 2. At the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required, (1) every farm tractor and self-propelled unit of farm equipment shall be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a white or amber light to the front, and at least one lamp displaying a red light to the rear; (2) every self-propelled unit of farm equipment shall also display two red reflectors, each at least 15 square inches in area, visible to the rear; (3) every combination of a self-propelled and towed unit of farm equipment shall be equipped with at least one lamp mounted to indicate as nearly as practicable the extreme left projection of the combination and displaying a white or amber light to the front and a red light to the rear; (4) the last unit of every combination of farm equipment shall display two red reflectors, each at least 15 square inches in area, visible to the rear.

The requirements of this subdivision apply to new farm tractors and equipment described herein on and after January 1, 1960; and to all such farm tractors and equipment on and after January 1, 1962.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 91; 1947 c 428 s 27; 1949 c 574; 1959 c 410 s 1; 1979 c 185 s 2 (2720-241)

### 169.56 AUXILIARY LIGHTS.

Subdivision 1. **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.

Subd. 2. **Fog lights.** Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed two fog lamps mounted on the front at a height not less than 12 inches nor more than 30 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light to the left of the center of the vehicle shall at a distance of 25 feet ahead project higher than a level of four inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes. Lighted fog lamps meeting the above requirements may be used with lower headlamp beams as specified in section 169.60.

Subd. 3. **Auxiliary passing lights.** Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed two auxiliary passing lamps mounted on the front at a height of not less than 24 inches nor more than 42 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. The provisions of section 169.60 shall apply to any combination of headlamps and auxiliary passing lamps.

Subd. 4. **Auxiliary driving lights.** Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed two auxiliary driving lamps mounted on the front at a height not less than 16 inches nor more than 42 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. The provisions of section 169.60 shall apply to any combination of headlamps and auxiliary driving lamps.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 92; 1945 c 207 s 2; 1959 c 521 s 5 (2720-242)

### 169.57 VEHICLE SIGNALS.

Subdivision 1. **Stop lights.** (a) Any vehicle may be equipped and when required under this chapter, shall be equipped with at least two stop lamps on the rear which shall emit a red or yellow light and which shall be actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake and which may, but need not be, incorporated with the tail lamps and which shall be plainly visible and understandable from a distance of 100 feet to the rear during normal sunlight and at night.

(b) No person shall sell or offer for sale or operate on the highways any motor vehicle registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after Janu-

ary 1, 1960, unless it is equipped with at least two stop lamps meeting the requirements of this subdivision, except that a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or truck tractor manufactured or assembled after said date shall be equipped with at least one stop lamp meeting the requirements of this subdivision.

Subd. 2. **Turn signal.** (a) Any vehicle may be equipped, and when required under this chapter shall be equipped, with a lamp or lamps or mechanical signal device of such color as may be approved by the commissioner of public safety and capable of clearly indicating any intention to turn either to the right or to the left and shall be visible and understandable during both daytime and nighttime from a distance of 100 feet both to the front and rear.

(b) On or after July 1, 1949, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale any new motor vehicle, excepting motorcycles, motor scooters, and bicycles with motor attached, unless it is equipped with turn signals meeting the requirements of this chapter.

Subd. 3. **Maintenance.** (a) When a vehicle is equipped with stop lamps or signal lamps, such lamps shall at all times be maintained in good working condition.

(b) No stop lamps or signal lamp shall project a glaring or dazzling light.

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

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 93; 1945 c 207 s 3; 1947 c 428 s 28; 1949 c 90 s 2; 1959 c 521 s 8; 1971 c 328 s 1 (2720-243)

### 169.58 IDENTIFICATION LAMPS.

Subdivision 1. 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 6 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.

Subd. 2. Any motor vehicles operated by an active member of a volunteer fire department authorized by or contracting with any city, town, or township in this state and upon obtaining a permit therefor from the commissioner of public safety may be equipped with a lamp emitting a red light to the front of such vehicle. The lens of such lamp shall be not more than three inches in diameter. Such lamp shall be lighted only when the member of the volunteer fire department is responding to an emergency call in connection with his duties as a volunteer firefighter. The commissioner of public safety is hereby authorized to issue permits on applications of a member of a volunteer fire department properly certified to by the chief of said volunteer fire department, and it shall be the duty of the chiefs of all volunteer fire departments to notify the commissioner of public safety immediately upon the termination of such membership.

Subd. 3. The commissioner of public safety, upon application therefor, may issue a permit to any certificated volunteer ambulance driver authorizing the driver to equip any privately owned motor vehicle operated by him with a lamp emitting a red light to the front of the vehicle. The lamps shall conform to specifications adopted by the commissioner. The lamp shall be lighted only when the driver is proceeding to the location of an ambulance in response to an emergency call. The application shall be in the form prescribed by the commissioner and shall contain verification satisfactory to the commissioner of the applicant's status as a certificated volunteer ambulance driver. Any permit issued shall

expire immediately upon termination of the permittee's employment as a volunteer ambulance driver.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 94; 1945 c 207 s 4; 1949 c 349; 1971 c 491 s 17; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1977 c 429 s 63; 1980 c 404 s 1 (2720-244)

#### 169.59 WARNING LIGHTS.

Subdivision 1. **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.

Subd. 2. **Runningboard lights.** Any vehicle may be equipped with not more than one runningboard courtesy lamp on each side thereof, which shall emit a white or yellow light without glare.

Subd. 3. **Back-up lights.** Any vehicle may be equipped with not more than two back-up lamps, 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.

Subd. 4. **Flashing warning lights.** Any vehicle may be equipped with lamps which may be used for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing, and when so equipped may display such warning in addition to any other warning signals required by this act. The lamps used to display such warnings to the front shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall display simultaneous flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color between white and amber. The lamps used to display such warnings to the rear shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall show simultaneously flashing amber or red lights, or any shade of color between amber and red. These warning lights shall be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 95; 1959 c 521 s 9 (2720-245)

#### 169.60 DISTRIBUTION OF LIGHT.

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 and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead; and on a straight level road under any condition of loading none of the high intensity portion of the beam shall be directed to strike the eyes of an approaching driver;

(3) All road lighting equipment manufactured and installed on and after January 1, 1938, shall be so arranged that when any beam is used which is not in conformity with clause (2), means shall be provided for indicating to the driver when such beams are being used.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 96; Ex1937 c 38 s 1; 1955 c 53 s.1 (2720-246)

#### 169.61 COMPOSITE BEAMS.

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.

When the driver of a vehicle follows another vehicle within 200 feet to the rear, except when engaged in the act of overtaking and passing, such driver shall use a distribution of light permissible under this chapter other than the uppermost distribution of light specified in section 169.60.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 97; 1945 c 207 s 5; 1953 c 330 s 1; 1955 c 52 s 1 (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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 98 (2720-248)

### **169.63 NUMBER OF LAMPS.**

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 motorcycle; 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 of public safety.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 99; 1939 c 430 s 18; 1971 c 491 s 18 (2720-249)

### **169.64 PROHIBITED LIGHTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Bright lights.** Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle, other than a head lamp, a spot lamp, or an auxiliary driving lamp, 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.



Subd. 2. **Colored lights.** Unless otherwise authorized by the commissioner of public safety, 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.

Subd. 3. **Flashing lights.** Flashing lights are prohibited, except on an authorized emergency vehicle, school bus, road maintenance equipment, wrecker, service vehicle, farm tractors, self-propelled farm equipment or on any vehicle as a means of indicating a right or left turn, or the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking or passing. All flashing warning lights shall be of the type authorized by section 169.59, subdivision 4, unless otherwise permitted or required in this chapter.

Subd. 4. **Blue lights.** Blue lights are prohibited on all vehicles except road maintenance equipment operated by or under contract to the state or a political subdivision thereof.

Subd. 5. **Flashing red light on wrecker.** A device displaying a flashing or intermittent red light of a type approved by the commissioner of public safety for that purpose, and in accordance with this section, may be used on a wrecker while engaged in emergency service at the scene of an accident. Such flashing red light shall not be displayed when traveling upon the highway or at any time other than at the scene of an accident.

Subd. 6. **Flashing amber light on service vehicle, snow removal equipment.** Any service vehicle or self-propelled unit of farm equipment except a farm tractor may be equipped with a flashing amber lamp of a type approved by the commissioner of public safety.

(1) A service vehicle shall not display the lighted lamp when traveling upon the highway or at any other time except at the scene of a disabled vehicle or while engaged in snow removal or road maintenance.

(2) A self-propelled unit of farm equipment may display the lighted lamp at any time.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 100; 1947 c 428 s 29; 1949 c 90 s 3; 1953 c 103 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 10; 1971 c 53 s 1; 1971 c 491 s 19,20; 1976 c 104 s 2,3 (2720-250)

### 169.65 SPECIFICATIONS FOR LIGHTING AND OTHER DEVICES.

The commissioner of public safety 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 of public safety 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, or use upon any such vehicle, any lamp or device mentioned in this section, which has been approved by the commissioner of public safety unless such lamp or device bears thereon the trademark 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 of public safety, having a rated candle power, and are mounted and adjusted as to focus and aim in accordance with instructions of the commissioner of public safety.

The commissioner of public safety is hereby authorized to approve or disapprove lighting devices.

The commissioner of public safety 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 of public safety is further authorized to set up a procedure which shall be followed when any device is submitted for approval.

The commissioner of public safety 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 of public safety for all costs connected with such test and approval.

The commissioner of public safety, 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 of public safety 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 of public safety.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 101-103; 1945 c 207 s 6; 1971 c 491 s 21; 1978 c 494 s 4 (2720-251, 2720-252, 2720-253)

#### **169.66 HEARINGS ON SPECIFICATIONS.**

When the commissioner of public safety 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 of public safety 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 of public safety that the approved device as thereafter to be sold meets the requirements of this chapter, the commissioner of public safety 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 of public safety 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 of public safety may refuse to renew the certificate of approval of such device.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 104; 1971 c 491 s 22 (2720-254)

**169.67 BRAKES.**

Subdivision 1. **Motor vehicles.** Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, 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.

Subd. 2. **Motorcycles and bicycles.** Every motorcycle, 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, semi-trailers, tank 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, except (a) 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, (b) 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, (c) trailers or semi-trailers when used by retail dealers delivering implements of husbandry, (d) motor vehicles drawn by motor vehicles equipped with brakes capable of stopping the combination of vehicles within the performance requirements of this section, (e) tank trailers not exceeding 8,500 pounds gross weight used solely for transporting liquid fertilizer or gaseous fertilizer under pressure, or distributor trailers not exceeding 8,500 pounds gross weight used solely for transporting and distributing dry fertilizer, when hauled by a truck capable of stopping with loaded trailer attached in the distance specified by subdivision 5 for vehicles equipped with four-wheel brakes, providing the gross weight of such trailer or semi-trailer other than those described in clause (e) 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 all wheels; exceptions.** Every new motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer, sold in this state and operated upon the highways shall be equipped with service brakes upon all wheels of every such vehicle, except that any motorcycle, any semi-trailer of less than 1,500 pounds gross weight, a third wheel, of a swivel type, on a house trailer, a temporary auxiliary axle attached to a motor vehicle during the period of road restrictions for the purpose of relieving weight of another axle, when the temporary auxiliary axle and the axle to be relieved do not exceed the combined gross weight of 18,000 pounds, and the vehicle to which such temporary axle is attached meets the brake requirements of this section, need not be equipped with brakes; and except, further, that brakes are not required on the front wheels of vehicles having three or more axles or upon more than one wheel of a motorcycle provided the brakes on the other wheels are adequate to stop the vehicle in accordance with the braking performance requirements of subdivision 5.

Subd. 5. **Performance standards.** Every motor vehicle or combination of vehicles, at all times and under all conditions of loading, upon application of the service (foot) brake, shall be capable of (a) developing a braking force that is not less than the percentage of its gross weight tabulated herein for its classification, (b) decelerating in a stop from not more than 20 miles per hour at not less than the feet per second per second tabulated herein for its classification, and (c) stopping from a speed of 20 miles per hour in not more than the distance

tabulated herein for its classification, such distance to be measured from the point at which movement of the service brake pedal or control begins. Tests for deceleration and stopping distance shall be made on a substantially level (not to exceed plus or minus one percent grade), dry, smooth, hard surface that is free from loose material.

Deceleration Table

1 Classification of Vehicles and Combinations	2 Braking Force as a Percentage of Gross Vehicle or Combination Weight	3 Deceleration in Feet Per Second Per Second	4 Brake System Application and Braking Distance in Feet
Passenger vehicles, not including buses .....	52.8 percent	17	25
Single-unit vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds .....	43.5 percent	14	30
Single-unit, 2-axle vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 or more pounds, and buses not having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating .....	43.5 percent	14	40
All other vehicles and combinations with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 or more pounds .....	43.5 percent	14	50

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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 105,106; Ex1937 c 38 s 2; 1939 c 430 s 19; 1945 c 207 s 7; 1953 c 423 s 1; 1955 c 452 s 1; 1959 c 277 s 1; 1961 c 89 s 1; 1963 c 747 s 1; 1967 c 272 s 1; 1976 c 205 s 1 (2720-255, 2720-256)

#### **169.672 BRAKE FLUID; COMMISSIONER'S APPROVAL REQUIRED.**

No person shall have for sale, sell or offer for sale for use in motor vehicle brake systems in this state any hydraulic brake fluid unless of a type and brand approved by the commissioner of public safety.

**History:** 1953 c 302 s 1; 1971 c 491 s 23; Ex1971 c 27 s 13

#### **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 of public safety, 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 107; 1971 c 491 s 24 (2720-257)

#### **169.685 SEAT BELTS.**

Subdivision 1. After January 1, 1964, all new motor vehicles, not exempt from Minnesota license fees, other than a bus, school bus, motorcycle, motorized bicycle, farm tractor, road tractor, and truck, sold or offered for sale or registered in Minnesota shall be equipped to permit the installation of seat belts in the front seat thereof.

Subd. 2. Within 30 days after the registration of such motor vehicle, it shall be equipped with seat belts installed for use in the left front and right front seats thereof.

Subd. 3. The specifications and requirements for seat belts or seat belt assemblies shall conform with the minimum standards for seat belts or seat belt assemblies heretofore adopted by the society of automotive engineers and in effect on January 1, 1963.

Subd. 4. Proof of the use or failure to use seat belts, or proof of the installation or failure of installation of seat belts shall not be admissible in evidence in any litigation involving personal injuries or property damage resulting from the use or operation of any motor vehicle.

**History:** 1963 c 93 s 1; 1979 c 227 s 2

**169.69 MUFFLERS.**

Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order which blends the exhaust noise into the overall vehicle noise and is in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise, and no person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass, or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a street or highway. The exhaust system shall not emit or produce a sharp popping or crackling sound. 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.

No person shall have for sale, sell or offer for sale or use on any motor vehicle any muffler that fails to comply with the specifications as required by the commissioner of public safety.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 108; 1939 c 430 s 20; 1953 c 306 s 1; 1971 c 491 s 25 (2720-258)

**169.691** [ Repealed, 1974 c 500 s 2 ]

**169.692** [ Repealed, 1974 c 500 s 2 ]

**169.693 MOTOR VEHICLE NOISE LIMITS.**

It is unlawful to operate a motor vehicle in violation of motor vehicle noise regulations adopted by the pollution control agency.

**History:** 1974 c 500 s 1

**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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 109 (2720-259)

**169.71 WINDSHIELDS.**

Subdivision 1. 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 objects suspended between the driver and the windshield, other than sun visors and rear vision mirrors, or with any sign, poster, or other nontransparent 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, or authorized by the state director of the division of emergency services, or the commissioner of public safety.

Subd. 2. 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.

Subd. 3. No person shall drive any motor vehicle with the windshield or front side windows covered with steam or frost to such an extent as to prevent proper vision.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 110; 1939 c 430 s 21; 1947 c 428 s 30; 1953 c 745 s 4; 1959 c 174 s 1; 1959 c 521 s 11; 1961 c 34 s 1; 1971 c 491 s 26; 1974 c 428 s 5 (2720-260)

**169.72 SURFACE OF TIRES; TIRES WITH METAL STUDS.**

Subdivision 1. 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 semitrailer, having any metal tire in contact with the roadway, except in case of emergency.

Except as provided in this section 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. It shall be permissible to use any of the following on highways: Farm machinery with tires having protuberances which will not injure the highway, and 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.

Subd. 2. [ Repealed, 1973 c 378 s 3 ]

Subd. 3. The commissioner of transportation shall prescribe specifications and guidelines for an in-depth study or test of the damage, if any, that may be caused to the public roadways of this state from the use of pneumatic tires that have embedded in them wire or wire coils for improving traction on ice and snow. The cost of such study and test shall be paid for by others, and no part of the study shall be paid for out of state funds except as may be incidentally spent for preparing specifications and guidelines. The study or test, if it is to be effective for the purposes of this subdivision, shall be made in accordance with the specifications and guidelines of the commissioner of transportation, and the tires so studied and tested shall be so constructed that the percent of wire or wire coils in contact with the roadway will not exceed, during the first 1,000 miles of use or operation, 20 percent of the total tire area in contact with the roadway, and after the first 1,000 miles of use or operation of such tires, the wire or wire coils in contact with the roadway will not exceed eight percent of the total tire area contact with the roadway. The commissioner of transportation shall promptly evaluate the results of the study, and if he determines that the use of pneumatic tires embedded with wire or wire coils meeting the above test specifications as to percentage of wire or wire coils in contact with the roadway will not damage the streets and highways or that the use of such tires will only cause slight and tolerable damage to the streets and highways, he shall, by order, authorize the use of such tires on the streets and highways of this state, specifying in such order the months during which the tires may be used. The metal wire or coils used in such tires shall be of a limited hardness so that the wire or coils shall wear at the same rate as the rubber in such tires. When the tire is at rest, the wire or coils shall not protrude beyond the rubber surface of the tire, or shall protrude only to such an insignificant amount as not to cause damage to the highway roadways beyond the tolerable limits set by the commissioner. A certified copy of the order shall be filed with the secretary of state prior to the date that such tires are authorized by the order to be used on the highways and streets. The use of such tires in accordance with, and during the times specified in, the commissioner's order shall be lawful notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1.

Subd. 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1, a person, operating a motor vehicle properly licensed and registered in another state or province of a foreign country which authorizes the use of tires with metal studs or wire embedded tires on its highways, may operate the motor vehicle with tires having metal type studs or with tires having wire embedded therein on the highways of this state while occasionally within the state, and such use while occasionally within the state is not unlawful; provided that, the metal type studs shall not exceed 5/16 of an inch in diameter inclusive of the stud casing with an average protrusion beyond the tread surface of not more than 7/64 of an inch, and the number of studs in a tire shall not exceed two percent of the total net contact area. Use of a vehicle in this state on more than 30 days in any consecutive six-month period is not occasionally. Except, a person whose regular place of employment is within the state or who is a student at an educational institution located within the state, shall not operate a vehicle, regardless of its place of registration, upon any highway within the state if such vehicle is equipped with tires which would be unauthorized were the vehicle registered in this state.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 111; 1965 c 168 s 1; 1967 c 13 s 1; 1969 c 245 s 1; Ex1971 c 43 s 1; 1973 c 378 s 1,2; 1974 c 389 s 1; 1976 c 166 s 7 (2720-261)

#### 169.721 UNSAFE TIRES; DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. As used in sections 169.721 to 169.727, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Passenger automobile" means any motor vehicle designed and used for the carrying of not more than nine persons, excluding motorcycles and motor scooters, but including within its meaning station wagons or other highway use motor vehicles using passenger automobile type tires.

Subd. 3. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public safety.

**History:** 1976 c 35 s 1

#### 169.722 RULES.

The commissioner shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 15 providing for the safe operating conditions of tires for use on passenger automobiles. The rules shall be so promulgated that a law enforcement officer may determine whether or not a tire is in compliance by visual inspection or by the use of simple measuring gauges. The rules shall be based on and include effects of tread wear and depth of tread, and shall incorporate all of the provisions of section 169.723.

**History:** 1976 c 35 s 2

#### 169.723 UNSAFE TIRES.

A tire shall be considered unsafe if it has:

- (1) Any part of the ply or cord exposed; or
- (2) Any bump, bulge or separation; or
- (3) A tread design depth of less than 2/32 (1/16) of an inch measured in the tread groove nearest the center of the tire at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, exclusive of tie bars or for those tires with tread wear indicators; or
- (4) Been worn to the level of the tread wear indicators in any two tread grooves at three locations; or
- (5) A marking "not for highway use", or "for racing purposes only", or "unsafe for highway use"; or
- (6) Tread or sidewall cracks, cuts or snags deep enough to expose the body cords; or



(7) Been regrooved or recut below the original tread design depth, except special taxi cab tires which have extra undertread rubber and are identified as such.

**History:** 1976 c 35 s 3

#### **169.724 PROHIBITION.**

No person shall drive, move or cause to be driven or moved any passenger automobile upon the highways of this state, unless such passenger automobile is equipped with tires in safe operating condition in accordance with rules promulgated by the commissioner.

**History:** 1976 c 35 s 4

#### **169.725 ENFORCEMENT.**

Any officer of the Minnesota highway patrol, at any time, upon reasonable cause to believe that a passenger automobile is equipped with tires in violation of sections 169.721 to 169.727, or of the rules promulgated hereunder, may require the operator of the passenger automobile to stop and submit the passenger automobile to an inspection. If the inspection discloses that the tires of the passenger automobile are in violation, the officer may issue a citation for such violation, and such defect shall be corrected forthwith.

**History:** 1976 c 35 s 5

#### **169.726 CERTAIN SALES PROHIBITED.**

No person or organization shall sell or offer for sale, other than to a motor vehicle dealer, any passenger automobile for use on the public highways of this state, unless the passenger automobile is equipped with tires that are in compliance with the rules promulgated by the commissioner under authority of section 169.722. If the tires are not in compliance with the rules, the person or organization selling or offering to sell the passenger automobile shall cause, prior to sale, the tires to be removed from the vehicle and shall equip the vehicle with tires that are in compliance with the rules; unless the vehicle is towed or hauled away. No person, firm, corporation or organization shall sell or offer for sale, other than to a tire dealer, tires for highway use not in compliance with these rules.

**History:** 1976 c 35 s 6

#### **169.727 PENALTY.**

Any person who violates the provisions of sections 169.721 to 169.727 or any rule promulgated pursuant thereto is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

**History:** 1976 c 35 s 7

#### **169.73 BUMPERS, SAFEGUARDS.**

Subdivision 1. As used in this section "private passenger vehicle" means a four wheeled passenger automobile, station wagon, or truck of a gross vehicle weight of 9,000 pounds or less, as those terms are defined in section 168.011, or a jeep type automobile, but does not include any collector vehicle as defined in section 168.10.

Subd. 2. All private passenger vehicles shall be equipped with front and rear bumpers. The bumpers shall be securely attached to the frame, and shall extend beyond the extreme front and rear points, respectively, of the vehicles. The center point of the bumpers shall be not more than 20, nor less than 16, 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.

Subd. 3. [ Repealed, 1980 c 498 s 7 ]

Subd. 4. [ Repealed, 1980 c 498 s 7 ]

Subd. 5. [ Repealed, 1980 c 498 s 7 ]

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 112; 1939 c 430 s 22; 1955 c 647 s 1; 1971 c 203 s 1; 1980 c 498 s 5,6 (2720-262)

### 169.733 WHEEL FLAPS ON TRUCKS AND TRAILERS.

Every truck, trailer, semi-trailer, pole trailer, and rear-end dump truck, excepting rear-end dump farm trucks and military vehicles of the United States, shall be provided with wheel flaps or other suitable protection above and behind the rearmost wheels of the vehicle or combination of vehicles to prevent, as far as practicable, such wheels from throwing dirt, water, or other materials on the windshields of vehicles which follow. Such flaps or protectors shall be at least as wide as the tires they are protecting and shall have a ground clearance of not more than one-fifth of the horizontal distance from the center of the rearmost axle to the flap under any conditions of loading or operation of the motor vehicle. Provided that in the case of a dump truck or truck with a rigid box fastened to its frame and having a conveyor belt or chain in the bottom of the vehicle which moves the cargo to the rear end of the vehicle, the flaps shall be mounted as far to the rear of the vehicle as practicable and shall have a ground clearance of not more than 18 inches when the vehicle is loaded.

If the motor vehicle is so designed and constructed that the above requirements are accomplished by means of body construction or other means of enclosure, then no such protectors or flaps shall be required.

If the rear wheels are not covered at the top by fenders, body or other parts of the vehicle, the flap or other protective means shall be extended at least to a point directly above the center of the rearmost axle.

Lamps or wiring shall not be attached to fender flaps.

**History:** 1951 c 640 s 1; 1953 c 619 s 1; 1976 c 136 s 1; 1978 c 498 s 1

### 169.734 WHEEL DEVICES ON AUTOMOBILES.

Every passenger automobile shall have fenders, or other devices, that are designed to prevent, as far as practicable, water, dirt, or other material being thrown up and to the rear by the wheels of the vehicle.

**History:** 1975 c 68 s 2

### 169.74 SAFETY GLASS.

Subdivision 1. **Required.** No person shall sell any new motor vehicle, nor shall any new motor vehicle be registered thereafter unless the vehicle is equipped with safety glass wherever glass is used in doors, windows, and windshields.

Subd. 2. **Definition.** "Safety glass" means any product composed of glass, or other material, as may be approved by the commissioner of public safety, as safety glass.

Subd. 3. **Replacements.** 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.

Subd. 4. **Other material prohibited.** No glazing material other than of a type meeting the requirements of this chapter shall be sold, offered for sale, offered for use, or used for installation in doors, windows or windshields of motor vehicles or of passenger-carrying trailers or semi-trailers.

Subd. 5. **Frostshields.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to include frostshields.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 113; 1947 c 428 s 31; 1971 c 491 s 27 (2720-263)

#### 169.743 BUG DEFLECTORS.

Bug deflectors shall be permitted but not required on motor vehicles. No bug deflector shall be sold, offered for sale, or used which is composed of other than non-illuminated, transparent material. No person shall operate any motor vehicle equipped with a bug deflector having more than three inches of material extending above the leading edge at the hood.

**History:** 1953 c 304 s 1; 1975 c 68 s 1

#### 169.75 FLARES, FLAGS AND REFLECTORS.

Subdivision 1. **Number required.** No person shall operate any motor vehicle towing a house trailer, any passenger bus or any other motor vehicle or combination of vehicles of an actual gross weight or manufacturer's rated gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds at any location upon an interstate highway or freeway or upon any other 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 the following equipment except as otherwise provided in subdivision 2.

At least three flares or three red electric lanterns or three emergency reflective triangles or three portable red reflector devices, each of which shall be capable of being seen and distinguished at a distance of 500 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at nighttime.

Subd. 2. **Flammables.** No person shall at any time operate a motor vehicle transporting flammable liquids in bulk or compressed flammable gases as cargo or part of cargo upon a highway unless it carries three electric lanterns or three emergency reflective triangles or three portable reflector units to be used in lieu of flares and no open burning flares shall be carried on or placed adjacent to such vehicle.

Subd. 3. **Flags and reflectors.** No person shall operate any motor vehicle towing a house trailer, any passenger bus or any other motor vehicle or combination of vehicles of an actual gross weight or manufacturer's rated gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds at any location upon any interstate highway or freeway or upon any other highway outside of a business or residence district unless there shall be carried in such vehicle at least three emergency reflective triangles or two red, yellow or orange flags not less than 12 inches square which shall be displayed at any time from one-half hour before sunrise to one-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 in subdivision 5, except a flag or reflector is not required to be displayed at the ten foot distance.

Subd. 4. **Approved type.** Every flare, lantern, signal, reflective triangle or reflector required in this section shall be of a type approved by the commissioner of public safety.

Subd. 5. **When used.** When any vehicle subject to the provisions of subdivisions 1 or 3 is disabled upon the roadway or shoulder at any location upon an interstate highway or freeway, or upon any other highway outside of a business or residence district during the period when lighted lamps must be displayed on vehicles and such motor vehicle cannot immediately be removed from the main traveled portion of the highway or from the shoulder, the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle shall promptly cause flares, lanterns, or other signals to be lighted and placed as warning lights upon the highway, one at the traffic side of the standing vehicle approximately ten feet rearward or forward thereof in the direction of greatest hazard to traffic, one at a distance of approximately 100

feet to the rear of the vehicle in the center of the lane occupied by such vehicle, and one at a distance of approximately 100 feet to the front of the vehicle in the center of the traffic lane occupied by such vehicle, except:

(a) If disablement of any vehicle occurs within 500 feet of a curve, crest of a hill or other obstruction to view, the driver or other person in charge shall so place the warning signal in that direction so as to offer ample warning to other users of the highway but in no case less than 100 feet nor more than 500 feet from the disabled vehicle;

(b) If disablement of the vehicle occurs upon the roadway or shoulder of any one way roadway of any highway, the driver or other person in charge shall place one warning signal at the traffic side of the vehicle not more than ten feet to the rear of the vehicle, one placed 100 feet to the rear of the vehicle in the center of the lane occupied by the standing vehicle, and one such signal at a distance of approximately 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 114; 1939 c 430 s 23; 1947 c 428 s 32; 1949 c 656; 1967 c 383 s 1-3; 1971 c 491 s 28; 1978 c 494 s 5 (2720-264)

### 169.751 DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of sections 169.751 to 169.754 the following words shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section:

(a) "First aid equipment" shall mean equipment for the purpose of rendering first aid to sick or injured persons as prescribed by the department of public safety for its highway patrol vehicles, such equipment to include materials for the application of splints to fractures.

(b) "Patrol motor vehicles" shall mean the highway patrol motor vehicles used in law enforcement of the department of public safety, the county sheriffs, and the various city, town, and other local police departments.

**History:** 1953 c 651 s 1; 1971 c 491 s 29; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1980 c 509 s 59

### 169.752 PATROL MOTOR VEHICLES, FIRST AID EQUIPMENT.

Every patrol motor vehicle shall be equipped with and carry first aid equipment.

**History:** 1953 c 651 s 2

### 169.753 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, TRAINED TO USE FIRST AID EQUIPMENT.

Law enforcement officers operating patrol motor vehicles shall be trained in the use and application of first aid equipment.

**History:** 1953 c 651 s 3

### 169.754 APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.

The various municipalities and political subdivisions of the state of Minnesota may for their fiscal years beginning after the enactment hereof appropriate such funds as are necessary for the purchase of first aid equipment for their patrol motor vehicles.

**History:** 1953 c 651 s 4

### 169.755 HANDICAPPED DRIVERS AND OWNERS, DISTRESS SIGNALS.

Subdivision 1. Physically handicapped drivers and physically handicapped owners of motor vehicles are authorized when getting into and out of such vehicles, or when in motor vehicle distress, to display a white flag of approximately seven and one-half inches in width and thirteen inches in length, with the

letter "H" thereon in red color with an irregular one-half inch red border. Said flag shall be of reflective material so as to be readily discernible under darkened conditions and shall be issued under subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. The commissioner of public safety may, upon application and payment of a fee of \$1, issue to any physically handicapped person a distress flag as described in subdivision 1, and a card which shall be applicant's authority to use such flag. This card shall set forth the applicant's name, address, date of birth, physical apparatus, if any, needed to operate a motor vehicle, and other pertinent facts which the commissioner deems desirable. The card and flag issued to an applicant shall bear corresponding numbers. In the event of loss or destruction of such flag a replacement may be issued upon the payment of the sum of \$1 by the applicant. The commissioner of public safety shall maintain a list of those persons to whom distress flags and cards have been issued.

Subd. 3. Any person who is not physically handicapped who uses the above mentioned flag as a distress signal or for any other purpose or any other person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided by law.

Subd. 4. "Physically handicapped" as employed herein shall include any person who has sustained an amputation or material disability of either or both arms or of either or both legs, or who has been otherwise disabled in any manner rendering it difficult and burdensome for him to walk.

**History:** 1965 c 752 s 1-4; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 4; 1971 c 666 s 1

### 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 of public safety, filled and ready for immediate use and placed at a convenient point on the vehicle so used.

The commissioner of public safety 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 115; 1971 c 491 s 30 (2720-265)

### 169.77 LAMP AND BRAKE ADJUSTING STATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Official stations.** The commissioner of public safety shall designate, furnish instructions to and supervise official stations for adjusting head lamps and auxiliary lamps and official stations for testing brakes to conform with the provisions of this chapter. The commissioner of public safety shall cause inspections to be made of such stations and shall revoke and require the surrender of the certificate issued to a station which he finds is not properly equipped or conducted. When head lamps and auxiliary lamps or brakes have been adjusted in conformity with the instructions issued by the commissioner of public safety a certificate of adjustment shall be issued to the driver of the motor vehicle on forms issued in duplicate by the commissioner of public safety showing date of issue, registration number of the motor vehicle, owner's name, make of vehicle, and official designation of the adjusting station.

Subd. 2. **Lamp station certificate.** The driver of any motor vehicle equipped with approved head lamps, auxiliary lamps, rear lamps, or signal lamps, who is arrested upon a charge that any of these 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 the lamps into conformance with requirements of this chapter. It is 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, the lamps have been made to conform with the requirements of this chapter.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 116; 1945 c 428; 1947 c 428 s 33; 1955 c 333 s 1; 1971 c 491 s 31 (2720-266)

### **169.771 SPOT CHECKS OF MOTOR VEHICLES.**

Subdivision 1. The intent of this section is to establish a motor vehicle inspection program administered by the commissioner of public safety evidencing substantial compliance with the Federal Highway Safety Act.

Subd. 2. The commissioner of public safety is directed to accelerate spot check inspections for unsafe motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment. Such inspections shall be conducted by the personnel of the state highway patrol.

Subd. 3. The commissioner of public safety may establish such reasonable rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, but all spot check inspections shall be held in such a manner that the motor vehicle operators, either private or commercial, shall not be unnecessarily inconvenienced either by extended detours, unnecessary delays, or any other unreasonable cause.

Subd. 4. Use of the highways and streets of this state shall constitute consent to spot check inspections as provided herein.

**History:** 1967 c 887 s 6 subd 1-4; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 4; 1971 c 491 s 32

### **169.78 MUNICIPAL INSPECTION 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 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 117 (2720-267)

### 169.79 VEHICLE REGISTRATION.

No person shall operate, drive or park a motor vehicle on any highway unless the vehicle is registered in accordance with the laws of this state and has the number plates for the current year only, as assigned to it by the commissioner of public safety, conspicuously displayed thereon in a manner that the view of any plate is not obstructed. If the vehicle is a motorcycle, motor scooter, motorized bicycle, motorcycle sidecar, trailer, or semitrailer, one such plate shall be displayed on the rear thereof; if the vehicle is a truck-tractor or road-tractor, one such plate shall be displayed on the front thereof; if it is any other kind of motor vehicle, one such plate shall be displayed on the front and one on the rear thereof. All plates shall be securely fastened so as to prevent them from swinging. The person driving the motor vehicle shall keep the plate legible and unobstructed and free from grease, dust, or other blurring material so that the lettering shall be plainly visible at all times.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 118; 1961 c 622 s 1; 1967 c 464 s 2; 1977 c 248 s 4 (2720-268)

### 169.80 SIZE, WEIGHT, LOAD.

**Subdivision 1. Limitations.** It is a misdemeanor for a person to drive or move, or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved, on a highway a 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 as prescribed in sections 169.80 to 169.88 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.

When all the axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles are weighed separately the sum of the weights of the axles so weighed shall be evidence of the total gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles so weighed.

When each of the axles of any group that contains two or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles have been weighed separately the sum of the weights of the axles so weighed shall be evidence of the total gross weight on the group of axles so weighed.

When, in any group of three or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles any axles have been weighed separately and two or more axles consecutive to each other in the group have been weighed together, the sum of the weights of the axles weighed separately and the axles weighed together shall be evidence of the total gross weight of the group of axles so weighed.

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 provided by law. For purposes of sections 169.80 to 169.88, a specialized vehicle resembling a low-slung two wheel trailer having a short bed or platform shall be deemed to be an implement of husbandry when the vehicle is used exclusively to transport implements of husbandry; and the term "temporarily moved upon a highway" shall mean a movement not to exceed 50 miles.

In addition to any other special permits authorized, an annual permit may be issued authorizing movements exceeding 50 miles of oversize vehicles and loads when the vehicles or combination of vehicles are used exclusively to transport implements of husbandry. Annual permits are issued in accordance with the applicable provisions of section 169.86, except that the transporting vehicle or combination of vehicles may be moved at the discretion of the permittee without prior route approval from the permit issuing office of the department of transportation if:

(a) The overall width of the transporting vehicle, including load, does not exceed 12 feet;

(b) The transporting vehicle otherwise complies with equipment requirements and length, height and weight limitations prescribed by this chapter;

(c) The movement is made after the hour of sunrise and not later than 30 minutes after sunset;

(d) The movement is not made when visibility is impaired by weather, fog or other conditions rendering persons and vehicles not clearly visible at a distance of 500 feet, or on Sundays and holidays;

(e) The transporting vehicle shall display at the front and rear end of the load or vehicle a pair of flashing amber lights, as provided in section 169.59, subdivision 4; and

(f) The movement, if made on a trunk highway, is made on a trunk highway with a surfaced roadway width of not less than 24 feet.

The fee for an annual permit is \$24.

**Subd. 2. Outside width.** 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, or a vehicle owned by a political subdivision and used exclusively for the purpose of handling sewage sludge from sewage treatment facilities to farm fields or disposal sites, shall not exceed 12 feet, and except as otherwise provided in this section.

A vehicle exceeding eight feet in total outside width, owned by a political subdivision and used for the purpose of transporting or applying sewage sludge to farm fields or disposal sites shall not transport sludge for distances greater than 15 miles, nor shall it be used for transportation of sewage sludge or return travel between the hours of sunset and sunrise, or at any other time when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog or other conditions rendering persons and vehicles not clearly discernible on the highway at a distance of 500 feet.

The total outside width of a low bed trailer or equipment dolly, and the load thereon, used exclusively for transporting farm machinery and construction equipment shall not exceed nine feet in width except that any such low bed trailer or equipment dolly with a total outside width, including the load thereon, in excess of eight feet shall not be operated on any interstate highway without first having obtained a permit for such operation pursuant to section 169.86. The vehicle shall display 12 inch square red flags as markers at the front and rear of the left side of the vehicle.

The total outside width of a trackless trolley car or passenger motor bus, operated exclusively in any city, or contiguous cities in this state, shall not exceed nine feet; provided a passenger motor bus, not exceeding eight and one-



half feet in width, may operate beyond the foregoing areas and within 20 miles of the boundaries of a city of the first class. A passenger motor bus, not exceeding eight and one-half feet in width, may operate between the separated facilities of a college or university if part of the facilities are located within one of the foregoing areas and part are located outside but not more than five miles from the area.

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 so as to hold the load securely in place.

Subd. 2a. **Intercity buses.** The foregoing provisions of this section notwithstanding, an intercity bus operated under authority of the interstate commerce commission may be eight and one-half feet in width when operated on certain highways, designated by the commissioner for such operation. The commissioner, with respect to highways under his jurisdiction, may designate certain highways for the operation of such intercity buses upon the following conditions:

(a) Highways designated by the commissioner shall be limited to the national system of interstate and defense highways and 4-lane and 6-lane highways. Further, portions of the state trunk highway system may be designated for such operation for the purpose of directly connecting segments of the national system of interstate and defense highways and 4-lane and 6-lane highways; provided, however, that on 2-lane highways so designated for connection the traffic lane shall not be less than twelve feet in width.

(b) The commissioner is authorized to prescribe conditions for operation of such intercity buses when necessary to assure against undue damage to the road foundations, surfaces or structures.

No highways shall be so designated by the commissioner prior to a time when buses of such width are permitted on the national system of interstate and defense highways.

Subd. 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 119-121; Ex1937 c 45 s 1; 1939 c 23 s 1,2; 1939 c 430 s 24; 1951 c 49 s 1; 1951 c 394 s 1; 1955 c 280 s 1; 1967 c 190 s 1; 1967 c 738 s 1; 1969 c 256 s 2; 1969 c 1054 s 1; Ex1971 c 27 s 14; Ex1971 c 48 s 30; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 148 s 1; 1976 c 294 s 1; 1977 c 150 s 1; 1978 c 568 s 2; 1980 c 438 s 1 (2720-269, 2720-271)

### 169.81 HEIGHT AND LENGTH LIMITATION.

Subdivision 1. **Height.** No vehicle unladen or with load shall exceed a height of 13 feet six inches.

Subd. 2. **Length.** No single unit motor vehicle, except truck cranes which shall not exceed 45 feet, 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 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 such city; 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 semitrailer shall be regarded as a combination of vehicles for the purpose of determining lawful length.

**Subd. 3. Length of combinations and semitrailers and truck-tractors.** (a) No combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load, including truck-tractor and semitrailers, shall consist of more than two units unless the combination consists of a truck-tractor and semitrailer drawing one additional semitrailer equipped with an auxiliary dolly, and no combination of vehicles shall exceed a total length of 60 feet. The limitation shall not apply to the transportation of telegraph poles, telephone poles, electric light and power poles, piling, or pole length pulpwood, and is subject to the following further exceptions: The 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 subdivision, but with respect to night transportation a vehicle and the load shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps and marker lamps on both sides and upon the extreme ends of a projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of the load. Mount combinations may be drawn but the combinations may not exceed 60 feet in length. The limitation on the number of units shall not apply to vehicles used for transporting milk from point of production to point of first processing, in which case no combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load, including truck-tractor and semitrailers, shall consist of more than three units and no combination of those vehicles shall exceed a total length of 60 feet. For the purpose of registration, trailers coupled with a truck-tractor, semitrailer combination shall be considered the same as semitrailers. The state, as to state trunk highways, and a city or town, as to roads or streets located within the city or town, may issue permits authorizing the transportation of combinations of vehicles exceeding the limitations in this subdivision over highways, roads or streets within their boundaries. Combinations of vehicles authorized by this subdivision may be restricted as to the use of highways by the commissioner, as to state trunk highways, and a road authority, as to highways or streets subject to its jurisdiction. Nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to alter or change the authority vested in local authorities under the provisions of section 169.04. This subdivision shall not apply to the operation of combinations of vehicles subject to the provisions of section 169.861.

(b) No single semitrailer or trailer shall have an overall length, exclusive of rear protective bumpers which do not increase the overall length by more than six inches and further exclusive of accessory equipment mounted or located on the end of the semitrailer or trailer adjacent to the truck or truck-tractor, in excess of 45 feet, except for those semitrailers governed by subdivisions 3a, 3b and 7. For purposes of determining compliance with the provisions of this subdivision, the length of the semitrailer or trailer shall be determined separate from the overall length of the combination of vehicles.

**Subd. 3a. Motor vehicle transport combinations.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, any combination of vehicles consisting of a truck tractor and semitrailer or truck and semitrailer designed and used for the transportation of motor vehicles and farm implements may exceed the length limits set out in subdivision 3 by not more than five feet, but shall not exceed 60 feet in length. The load may extend a total of five feet, but may not extend more than three feet beyond the front or rear, and in no case shall the overall length of the combination of vehicles, laden or unladen exceed 60 feet.

**Subd. 3b. Permits for certain semitrailers; fees.** The commissioner may issue an annual permit for a semitrailer in excess of 45 feet in length, if the distance from the kingpin to the center of the rearmost axle of the semitrailer does not exceed 40 feet, and if a combination of vehicles, which includes a semitrailer in excess of 45 feet for which a permit has been issued pursuant to this subdivision, does not exceed the length limits set out in this section. The annual fee for a permit issued under this subdivision is \$36.

Subd. 4. **Projecting loads.** 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, loaded, or the load securely covered 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. This subdivision shall not apply to motor vehicles operated by a farmer or his agent when transporting produce he has produced.

Subd. 6. [ Repealed, 1967 c 215 s 2 ]

Subd. 7. **Flax straw transports.** Any combination of vehicles which includes an unenclosed semitrailer constructed and used to transport flax fiber or flax straw in the state of Minnesota for decortication or for use in the processing and manufacture of paper to a processing plant, a warehouse, a storage yard, or a railroad siding may exceed the length limits set out in subdivisions 2 and 3, but shall not exceed a total combined length of 60 feet. No combination of vehicles shall consist of more than two units as heretofore provided in this section. The commissioner shall issue special permits for each such vehicle pursuant to section 169.86, provided that such permits (1) shall be issued on an annual basis and shall be renewed each year for use only in an area west of state trunk highways marked number 4, 71, and 72; (2) shall be issued upon a finding by the commissioner that use thereof will not, because of weight, constitute a damaging effect upon the highways used, and, provided further, that such permits shall be issued only to a company engaged in decortication, its affiliate or subsidiary, either as owner of or lessee of any such vehicles owned by others and that not more than 15 such permits shall be in effect at any one time.

Subd. 8. **Livestock or poultry loading chute trailers.** Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions 2 and 3, a farm truck as defined in section 168.011, subdivision 17, including a single unit truck or a combination of vehicles of no more than two units and otherwise not exceeding the size and weight limitations prescribed by law, and a livestock or poultry truck, including a single unit truck or a combination of vehicles of no more than two units and not otherwise exceeding the size and weight limitations prescribed by law, owned or operated by a livestock or poultry carrier and used primarily for transporting livestock or poultry for hire, may draw one additional two-wheel trailer, the loaded weight of which does not exceed 3,000 pounds, for the sole purpose of transporting a livestock or poultry loading chute; provided that such two-wheel trailer shall not be drawn by a two-unit combination on the public highways of this state beyond a ten mile radius of the home post office of the owner or operator of the two-unit combination. The two-wheel trailer used solely for transporting a livestock or poultry chute is special mobile equipment.

Subd. 9. **Application of subdivision 8.** Subdivision 8 shall not apply to the seven county metropolitan area.

Subd. 10. **Pickup trucks; limitation on drawing trailers.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any other law to the contrary, a pickup truck used primarily in the production or transportation of any agricultural commodity as defined in section 17.53, subdivision 2, may draw not to exceed two empty trailers when the resulting combination does not exceed the size and weight limitations otherwise prescribed by law. A pickup truck when drawing two trailers shall not be operated on the highways of this state beyond a 35 mile radius of the home post office of the owner of the pickup truck nor at a speed exceeding 35 miles per hour.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 122,123; 1943 c 226 s 1; 1953 c 731 s 1; 1955 c 399 s 1; 1957 c 270 s 1; 1957 c 923 s 2; 1959 c 143 s 1; 1959 c 276 s 1; 1963 c 770 s 1; 1965 c 401 s 1; 1967 c 215 s 1; 1967 c 271 s 1; 1973 c 17 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 546 s 4; 1973 c 666 s 1; 1973 c 707 s 1,2; 1974 c 52 s 1; 1974 c 343 s 2,3; 1974 c 358 s 1,2; 1977 c 113 s 1; 1980 c 491 s 1; 1980 c 513 s 1,2 (2720-272, 2720-273)

### 169.82 TRAILER 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, red, yellow or orange 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 of public safety 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 of public safety 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 124; 1939 c 430 s 26; 1943 c 226 s 2; 1945 c 207 s 8; 1971 c 491 s 33; 1973 c 10 s 1 (2720-274)

### 169.83 WEIGHT LIMITATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Pneumatic-tired vehicles.** Except as provided in section 169.832, 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;
3. The limitations provided in this section shall be increased statewide by 20 percent from January 1 through March 7 each winter for haulers of raw and unfinished forest products; and further, this 20 percent increase is authorized from December 1 through December 31 each winter for haulers of raw and unfinished forest products, subject to limitation by order of the commissioner of transportation, in the zone bounded as follows: Beginning at Pigeon River in the northeast corner of Minnesota; thence in a southwesterly direction along the north shore of Lake Superior along Trunk Highway No. 61 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 210; thence westerly along Trunk Highway No. 210 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 10; thence northwesterly along Trunk Highway No. 10 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 59; thence northerly along Trunk Highway No. 59 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 2; thence westerly along Trunk Highway No. 2 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 32; thence northerly along Trunk Highway No. 32 to the junction with Trunk Highway No. 11; thence northeast along Trunk Highway No. 11 to the east line of Range 43W to the Minnesota-Canadian Border; thence easterly along said Border to Lake Superior.

In all cases where gross weights in an amount less than those set forth in this subdivision are fixed, limited or restricted on any highway or bridge by or pursuant to any other section of this chapter the lesser gross weight as so fixed, limited or restricted shall not be exceeded and shall control instead of the gross weights set forth in this subdivision.

Subd. 1a. **Single wheel defined.** For the purposes of subdivision 1, clause 1, two or more wheels less than 48 inches apart on an axle shall be deemed a single wheel; provided that two or more wheels less than 48 inches apart on an axle on vehicles in operation and registered in this state on November 13, 1971, shall be counted as separate wheels.

Subd. 2. **Gross weight schedule.** (1) Except as provided in section 169.832, 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 group of two or more consecutive axles of any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds that given in the following table for the distance between the centers of the first and last axles of any group of two or more consecutive axles under consideration; the distance between axles being measured longitudinally to the nearest even foot, and when the measurement is a fraction of exactly one-half foot the next largest whole number in feet shall be used, except that when the distance between axles is more than three feet four inches and less than three feet six inches the distance of four feet shall be used:

Distances in feet between centers of foremost and rear-most axles of a group	Maximum gross weight in pounds on a group of		
	2 consecutive axles of a 2-axle vehicle or of any vehicle or combination of vehicles having a total of 3 or more axles	3 consecutive axles of a 3-axle vehicle or of any vehicle or combination of vehicles having a total of 3 or more axles	4 consecutive axles of any combination of vehicles having a total of 4 or more axles
4	32,000		
5	32,000		
6	32,000		
7	32,000	37,000	
8	33,000	38,500	
9	34,000	39,900	
10	35,000	41,200	42,500
11	36,000	42,400	44,300
12		43,500	46,000
13		44,500	47,600
14		45,500	49,100
15		46,500	50,500
16		47,500	51,800
17		48,500	53,000
18		49,500	54,000
19		50,500	54,500
20		51,500	55,500
21		52,200	56,000
22		52,900	56,500
23		53,600	57,500
24		54,000	58,000

25	58,500
26	59,500
27	60,000
28	60,500
29	61,500
30	62,500
31	63,500
32	64,000

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 169.85, the gross vehicle weight of all axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed 73,280 pounds and the gross weight on any tandem axle shall not exceed 32,000 pounds.

(2) During the times and within the zone set forth in subdivision 1 and not otherwise haulers of raw and unfinished forest products shall not be subject to the foregoing limitations of gross weight for groups of two or more consecutive axles in this subdivision set forth but shall in lieu thereof within such zone and during such time be subject to the gross weight limitations as follows: No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires shall be operated by haulers of raw and unfinished forest products upon the highways of this state during the times and within the zone in subdivision 1 set forth 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 800 shall be used where a group of two consecutive axles is under consideration, a coefficient of 860 shall be used where a group of three consecutive axles is under consideration; a coefficient of 900 shall be used where a group of four consecutive axles is under consideration; and a coefficient of 920 shall be used where a group of five or more consecutive axles is under consideration.

(3) In all cases where gross weights in an amount less than those set forth in this subdivision are fixed, limited or restricted on any highway or bridge by or pursuant to any other section of this chapter the lesser gross weights as so fixed, limited or restricted shall not be exceeded and shall control instead of the gross weights set forth in this subdivision.

**Subd. 2a. Combined vehicles, consecutive axle weight.** For the purposes of the gross weight table in subdivision 2, the maximum gross weight in pounds on a group of four consecutive axles of any combination of vehicles having a total of four or more axles shall also apply to four consecutive axles of any vehicle, and no vehicle alone, nor any vehicle of a combination of vehicles, shall be equipped with more than four axles; provided that the limitation on the number of axles as herein provided shall not apply to any vehicle operated under permit pursuant to section 169.86.

**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. In no event shall the front steering axle of any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires exceed a gross weight of 18,000 pounds.

**Subd. 4.** [ Repealed, 1951 c 588 s 4 ]

**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, except that the gross weight limitations shall be reduced by 40 percent.

**Subd. 6. Application.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to vehicles operated exclusively in any city in this state which has in force and effect an ordinance regulating the gross weight of vehicles operated therein.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 125; 1943 c 226 s 3; 1945 c 113 s 1; 1951 c 39 s 1,2; 1951 c 587 s 1; 1951 c 588 s 1-4; 1953 c 65 s 1,2; 1955 c 47 s 1; 1957 c 62 s 1; 1957 c 923 s 3; 1957 c 944 s 1; 1959 c 62 s 1,2; 1963 c 532 s 1; 1969 c 71 s 1; Ex1971 c 48 s 28,29; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 353 s 1-3; 1974 c 122 s 1; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1977 c 248 s 5,6; 1977 c 279 s 1 (2720-275)

169.831 [ Repealed, 1976 c 343 s 6 ]

**169.832 WEIGHT LIMITATIONS ON INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS AND DESIGNATED ROUTES.**

Subdivision 1. **Application.** The provisions of this section apply on routes designated by the commissioner of transportation pursuant to subdivisions 11 and 12, and on all interstate highways.

Subd. 2. **Limitations.** No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires shall be operated upon the streets and highways of this state with a gross weight exceeding 10,000 pounds carried on any one wheel, including all enforcement tolerances; 20,000 pounds carried on any one axle, including all enforcement tolerances; 12,000 pounds on the steering axle of any truck tractor, except as provided in this subdivision, including all enforcement tolerances; or with a tandem axle weight in excess of 34,000 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances; or with an overall gross weight on a group of two or more consecutive axles produced by application of the following formula:

$$W = 500((LN/N-1) + 12N + 36)$$

where W equals overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L equals distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and N equals number of axles in the group under consideration, except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more, provided that such overall gross weight may not exceed 80,000 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances. A truck tractor used in the transportation of motor vehicles or operated by a heavy specialized motor carrier as defined by the interstate commerce commission may exceed 12,000 pounds gross weight on the steering axle but shall in no event exceed 18,000 pounds gross weight on that axle.

Subd. 3. **Gross weight schedule.** The distance between the centers of the first and last axles of any group of two or more consecutive axles under consideration shall be measured longitudinally to the nearest even foot, and when the measurement is a fraction of exactly one-half foot the next largest whole number in feet shall be used, except that when the distance between axles is more than three feet four inches and less than three feet six inches the distance of four feet shall be used.

The following table is based on the formula provided in subdivision 2.

**COMPUTED GROSS WEIGHT TABLE**

For various spacings of axle groupings

Weight Formula  $W = 500((LN/N-1) + 12N + 36)$

Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive axles (wheelbases)	Maximum Computed Weight in Pounds for any Group of Two or More Consecutive Axles (Wheelbases)				
	2 Axles	3 Axles	4 Axles	5 Axles	6 Axles
4	34,000				
5	35,000				

6	36,000				
7	37,000				
8	38,000	42,000			
9	39,000	43,000			
10	40,000	43,500			
11		44,500			
12		45,000	50,000		
13		46,000	50,500		
14		46,500	51,500		
15		47,500	52,000		
16		48,000	52,500	58,000	
17		49,000	53,500	58,500	
18		49,500	54,000	59,500	
19		50,500	54,500	60,000	
20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
21		52,000	56,000	61,000	66,500
22		52,500	56,500	62,000	67,000
23		53,500	57,500	62,500	68,000
24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
25		55,000	58,500	63,500	69,000
26		55,500	59,500	64,500	69,500
27		56,500	60,000	65,000	70,000
28		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
29		58,000	61,500	66,000	71,500
30		58,500	62,000	67,000	72,000
31		59,500	63,000	67,500	72,500
32		60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000
33			64,000	68,500	74,000
34			64,500	69,500	74,500
35			65,500	70,000	75,000
36			66,000	70,500	75,500
37			66,500	71,000	76,000
38			67,500	72,000	77,000
39			68,000	72,500	77,500
40			68,500	73,000	78,000
41			69,500	73,500	78,500
42			70,000	74,500	79,000
43			70,500	75,000	80,000
44			71,500	75,500	
45			72,000	76,000	
46			72,500	77,000	
47			73,500	77,500	
48			74,000	78,000	
49			74,500	78,500	
50			75,500	79,500	
51			76,000	80,000	

The permissible loads are rounded up to the nearest 500 pounds.

Notwithstanding any lesser weight in pounds shown in this table, two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each and a combined gross load of 68,000 pounds provided the overall distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more.

Subd. 4. **Raw and unfinished wood products.** Except on interstate highways, the limitations provided in this section shall be increased by ten percent for haulers of raw and unfinished wood products during the times and within the zones specified in section 169.83, subdivision 1, clause 3.



Subd. 5. **Effect of other weight restrictions.** In all cases where gross weights in an amount less than those permitted under this section are fixed, limited or restricted on any highway or bridge by or pursuant to any other section of this chapter except section 169.83 such lesser gross weights as so fixed, limited or restricted shall not be exceeded and shall control instead of the gross weights permitted under this section.

Subd. 6. **Single wheel defined.** For the purposes of subdivision 2, two or more wheels less than 48 inches apart on an axle shall be deemed a single wheel; provided that two or more wheels less than 48 inches apart on an axle on vehicles in operation and registered in this state on November 13, 1971, shall be counted as separate wheels.

Subd. 7. **Combined vehicles, consecutive axle weight.** For the purposes of the gross weight table in subdivision 3, the maximum gross weight in pounds on a group of four consecutive axles of any combination of vehicles having a total of four or more axles shall also apply to four consecutive axles of any vehicle, and no vehicle alone, nor any vehicle of a combination of vehicles, shall be equipped with more than four axles; provided that the limitation on the number of axles as herein provided shall not apply to any vehicle operated under permit pursuant to section 169.86.

Subd. 8. **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. In no event shall the front steering axle of any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires exceed a gross weight of 18,000 pounds.

Subd. 9. **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 2, 3, and 8, except that the gross weight limitations shall be reduced by 40 percent.

Subd. 10. **Exception.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to vehicles operated exclusively in any city in this state which has in force and effect an ordinance regulating the gross weight of vehicles operated therein.

Subd. 11. **Designation of routes.** The commissioner may designate any street or highway route or segment of a route to carry the gross weights permitted under this section. Any designation of a route pursuant to this subdivision, other than a trunk highway route, is subject to the approval of the local authority having jurisdiction over the route. A route may not be designated if the commissioner finds that designation

- (a) creates an undue hazard to traffic safety; or
- (b) is inconsistent with structural capacity of the route, including consideration of the volume of traffic expected to occur on the route after designation.

Notwithstanding any finding under clause (b), the commissioner shall designate any route which he determines is needed to provide

- (i) a connection between significant centers of population or commerce, or between other designated routes; or
- (ii) access to a transportation terminal; or
- (iii) temporary emergency service to a particular shipping or receiving point on the route.

The commissioner may undesignate any route when continued designation is inconsistent with the provisions of this subdivision, subject to the approval of any local authority having jurisdiction over the route.

Except as provided in subdivision 12, any route designation or undesignation shall be effective when proposed and adopted as a rule in accordance with chapter 15. The commissioner shall propose the designation or undesignation of

any route when requested by any local authority having jurisdiction over the route. The commissioner shall propose rules or amendments to rules for the purpose of route designation or undesignation only once in any calendar year.

Subd. 12. **Emergency rule making power of commissioner.** The commissioner may exercise emergency rule making power pursuant to section 15.0412, subdivision 5, to designate or undesignate a route to carry the gross weights permitted under this section, subject to the approval of any local authority having jurisdiction over the route, whenever the commissioner determines that an emergency transportation need requires such action.

**History:** 1977 c 248 s 7

#### **169.834 COUNTY WEIGHT ENFORCEMENT REPORT.**

No later than January 15, 1979, the sheriff of each county shall file with the commissioner of transportation a report showing:

(a) the number of scales operated by the sheriff to enforce vehicle weight limitations on highways in the county;

(b) the number of vehicles or combinations of vehicles weighed by the sheriff during the preceding calendar year; and

(c) the number of citations, if any, issued to vehicle operators violating the weight limitations provided in sections 169.83 or 169.832 during the preceding calendar year.

The report may include the number of convictions, as defined in section 171.01, subdivision 13, in the previous calendar year resulting from citations issued by the sheriff for violations of sections 169.83 or 169.832. The report shall be on a form provided by the commissioner.

**History:** 1977 c 248 s 8

#### **169.84 LOAD LIMIT ON 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 or the approaches thereto.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 126; 1953 c 22 s 1 (2720-276)

#### **169.85 WEIGHING; PENALTY.**

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 five miles. Official traffic control devices as authorized by section 169.06 may be used to direct the driver to the nearest scale. When any weigh station upon a trunk highway or interstate highway is open and signs giving notice of that fact are posted in accordance with section 169.06 and are not posted more than one mile from the weigh station, the driver of every vehicle or combination of vehicles registered for or weighing in excess of 11,000 pounds, except buses registered in this state, shall comply with the direction of the signs and submit the vehicle to weighing and inspection at the weigh station.

Upon weighing a vehicle and load, as provided above, an officer may require the driver to stop the vehicle in a suitable place and remain standing until a portion of the load is removed that is sufficient to reduce the gross weight of the vehicle to the limit permitted under sections 169.83 or 169.832, whichever applies. A driver may be required to unload a vehicle only if the weighing officer determines that (a) on routes subject to the provisions of sec-

tion 169.83, the weight on any axle exceeds the lawful gross weight prescribed by section 169.83, by 2,000 pounds or more, or the weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles in cases where the distance between the centers of the first and last axles of the group under consideration is ten feet or less exceeds the lawful gross weight prescribed by section 169.83, by 4,000 pounds or more; or (b) on routes subject to the provisions of section 169.832, the overall weight of the vehicle or the weight on any axle or group of consecutive axles exceeds the maximum lawful gross weights prescribed by section 169.832; or (c) the weight is unlawful on any axle or group of consecutive axles on any road restricted in accordance with section 169.87. 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 as required herein, 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 127; 1951 c 212 s 1; 1953 c 719 s 1; 1975 c 68 s 3; 1977 c 248 s 9 (2720-277)

### 169.851 WEIGHT RECORD.

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** "Document" includes a bill of lading, freight bill, weight certification, or other similar document.

Subd. 2. **Relevant evidence.** A document evidencing the receipt of goods issued by the person consigning the goods for shipment or a person engaged in the business of transporting or forwarding goods, which states a gross weight of the vehicle and load or the weight of the load when combined with the empty weight of the vehicle that is in excess of the prescribed maximum weight limitation permitted by this chapter is relevant evidence that the weight of the vehicle and load is unlawful. The provisions of this section do not apply to the transportation of unprocessed or raw farm products from the place of production to market provided the transportation constitutes the first haul of the products. For the purposes of this section and sections 169.871 and 169.872, a document required to be kept under section 169.872 indicating a unit of measure that, when converted to weight and combined with the weight of the empty vehicle, indicates a gross weight in excess of the prescribed maximum weight limitation permitted by this chapter is relevant evidence that the weight of the vehicle and load is unlawful. The foregoing provisions do not limit the introduction of other competent evidence bearing upon the question of whether or not there is a violation of the prescribed maximum weight limitations permitted by this chapter.

**History:** 1980 c 485 s 1

### 169.86 SPECIAL PERMITS.

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. Such permits relating to over-width, over-length mobile homes shall not be issued to persons other than mobile home dealers for movement of new units owned by the mobile home dealer, without such person first presenting a statement from the county auditor and treasurer where the unit is presently located, stating all personal and real property taxes have been paid.

This statement must be dated within 30 days of the contemplated move. The statement from the county auditor and treasurer where the unit is presently located, stating all personal and real property taxes have been paid, may be made by telephone. If the statement is obtained by telephone, the permit shall contain the date and time of the telephone call and the names of the persons in the auditor's office and treasurer's office who verified that all personal and real property taxes had been paid.

**Subd. 1a. Seasonal permits for certain haulers.** The commissioner of transportation, upon application in writing therefor, may issue special permits annually to any hauler of raw and unfinished forest products authorizing the hauler to move vehicles or combinations of vehicles with weights exceeding by not more than ten percent the weight limitations contained in section 169.832, on interstate highways during the times and within the zones specified in section 169.83, subdivision 1, clause 3.

In all cases where gross weights in an amount less than those permitted under this subdivision are fixed, limited or restricted on any interstate highway or bridge thereon by or pursuant to any other section of this chapter the lesser gross weights as so fixed, limited or restricted shall not be exceeded and shall control instead of the gross weights permitted under this subdivision.

**Subd. 2. Required information.** 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. Discretion to issue or withhold; conditions of operation; liability insurance.** 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 or damage to any roadway or road structure, and in addition may require that the operator or owner of such vehicle or vehicles have in effect with respect to the operation of such vehicle or vehicles a policy of liability insurance or bond affording substantially the same coverage with respect to injury to persons and damage to property as is required for proof of financial responsibility under the no-fault automobile insurance act, sections 65B.14 and 65B.41 to 65B.71.

**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.

**Subd. 5. Fees.** To cover administrative costs in issuing such permits, the commissioner, with respect to highways under his jurisdiction, may charge a fee of \$5 for each such permit issued, except a seasonal transportation permit to contractors who move their own construction machinery and equipment for their own use, the fee for which seasonal permit shall be \$25. An annual permit may be issued for refuse compactor vehicles which will permit up to but not in excess of 22,000 pounds on a single rear axle and not in excess of 38,000 pounds on a tandem rear axle. The fee for this annual permit shall be \$50. All such fees for permits issued by the commissioner of transportation shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the trunk highway fund.

**Subd. 6. Articulated buses.** Articulated buses operated by public transit operators may exceed the length and weight limitations of this chapter, subject only to an annual permit from the commissioner for such operation, and shall

not be subject to any city ordinance or to any permit from any local road authority. The application for a permit shall contain such information as may be required by the commissioner.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 128; 1943 c 226 s 4; 1953 c 307 s 1; 1967 c 262 s 1; 1973 c 549 s 3; 1974 c 110 s 1; 1974 c 408 s 32 subd 4; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1976 c 343 s 1; 1977 c 248 s 10; 1977 c 454 s 17 (2720-278)

### **169.861 PERMITS FOR CERTAIN COMBINATIONS; FEES.**

**Subdivision 1. Applications.** The commissioner shall issue an annual permit to enable a combination of vehicles consisting of a truck and semitrailer or a truck-tractor and semitrailer drawing one additional semitrailer equipped with an auxiliary dolly between 55 and 65 feet in length to operate on the public highways. The permit shall entitle the combination of vehicles to operate only on divided highways having four or more lanes of travel, and on such other highways as may be designated by the commissioner of transportation subject to section 169.87, subdivision 1, and subject to the approval of the authority having jurisdiction over such highway, for the purpose of providing access between such divided highways of four or more lanes of travel and truck terminals and marshalling yards or for the purpose of providing continuity of route. All vehicles operated under the provisions of this section shall conform to the standards for such vehicles as prescribed by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety, and as may be amended.

**Subd. 2. Display.** The permit issued under this section shall at all times be carried in or upon the vehicle supplying the mode of power for the combination of vehicles for which it has been issued.

**Subd. 3. Fees.** The commissioner is authorized to charge a fee of \$75 for such annual permit for each combination exceeding 55 but not more than 60 feet in length; and \$200 for each combination exceeding 60 but not more than 65 feet in length. All such fees for permits issued by the commissioner shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the highway user tax distribution fund. This fee may be prorated in the same manner as registration fees are prorated pursuant to section 168.187. For those vehicles not covered by section 168.187 or reciprocal agreements pursuant to section 168.181, a trip fee of \$10 for combinations exceeding 55 but not more than 60 feet in length and \$20 for combinations exceeding 60 but not more than 65 feet in length may be charged.

**History:** 1973 c 546 s 5; 1974 c 343 s 4; 1976 c 166 s 7

### **169.862 PERMITS FOR WIDE LOADS OF BALED HAY.**

The commissioner of transportation, with respect to highways under his jurisdiction, and local authorities, with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, may issue an annual permit to enable a vehicle carrying round baled hay, with a total outside width of the vehicle or the load thereon not exceeding 11-1/2 feet, to be operated on public streets and highways. Permits issued pursuant to this section shall be governed by the applicable provisions of section 169.86 except as otherwise provided herein, and in addition shall carry the following restrictions:

(a) The vehicles shall not be operated between sunset and sunrise, when visibility is impaired by weather, fog or other conditions rendering persons and vehicles not clearly visible at a distance of 500 feet, or on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

(b) The vehicles shall not be operated on interstate highways.

(c) The vehicles shall not be operated on a trunk highway with a pavement less than 24 feet wide.

(d) A vehicle operated under the permit shall be equipped with a retractable or removable mirror on the left side so located that it will reflect to the driver a clear view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle. Simultaneous flashing amber lights, as provided in section 169.59, subdivision 4, shall be displayed to the front and rear of the vehicle. The flashing amber lights shall be lighted only when the width of the load exceeds eight feet. The flashing amber light system shall be in addition to and separate from the turn signal system and the hazard warning light system.

(e) A vehicle operated under the permit shall display red, orange or yellow flags, 12 inches square, as markers at the front and rear, and on both sides of the load. The load shall be securely bound to the transporting vehicle.

The fee for the permit shall be \$25.

**History:** 1979 c 44 s 1

### **169.87 SEASONAL LOAD RESTRICTIONS; DESIGNATION OF TRUCK ROUTES.**

Subdivision 1. **Optional power.** 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.

When a local authority petitions the commissioner to establish a truck route for travel into, through, or out of the territory under its jurisdiction, the commissioner shall investigate the matter. If the commissioner determines from his investigation that the operation of trucks into, through, or out of the territory involves unusual hazards because of any or all of the following factors; load carried, type of truck used, or topographic or weather conditions, the commissioner may make his order designating certain highways under his jurisdiction as truck routes into, through, or out of such territory. When these highways have been marked as truck routes pursuant to the order, trucks traveling into, through, or out of the territory shall comply with the order.

Subd. 2. **Seasonal load restrictions.** Except where restrictions are imposed as provided in subdivision 1, no person shall operate any vehicle or combination of vehicles upon any county or town road during the period between March 20 and May 15 of each year where the gross weight on any single axle, as defined in Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 169.83, exceeds 10,000 pounds; provided,

that there shall be excepted and exempted from the provisions of this section emergency vehicles of public utilities used incidental to making repairs to its plant or equipment; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to roads paved with cement concrete. Subdivision 2 shall apply only to county and town roads located westerly and southerly of the following described line: beginning at a point on the south shore of Lake of the Woods, thence southerly along the Westerly borders of Lake of the Woods and Beltrami counties to the intersection with State Trunk Highway No. 2, thence easterly and southeasterly along State Trunk Highway No. 2 to Duluth.

Subd. 3. **School buses.** Weight restrictions imposed pursuant to subdivisions 1 and 2 do not apply to a school bus transporting students when the gross weight on a single axle of the school bus does not exceed 14,000 pounds; provided that, road authorities may restrict any highway under their jurisdiction to a lesser school bus axle weight by written order to school boards 24 hours in advance of required compliance with such reduced axle weight.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 129; 1947 c 505 s 1; 1949 c 695 s 1; 1951 c 445 s 1; 1967 c 12 s 1; 1967 c 467 s 1; 1973 c 85 s 1 (2720-279)

### 169.871 CIVIL PENALTY.

The owner or lessee of a vehicle that is operated with a gross weight in excess of a weight limit imposed under sections 169.83 to 169.87 or a shipper who ships or tenders goods for shipment in a single truck or combination vehicle that exceeds a weight limit imposed under sections 169.83 to 169.87 is liable for a civil penalty as follows:

(a) If the total gross excess weight is not more than 2,000 pounds, one cent per pound for each pound in excess of the legal limit;

(b) If the total gross excess weight is more than 2,000 pounds but not more than 3,000 pounds, five cents per pound for each pound in excess of the legal limit;

(c) If the total gross excess weight is more than 3,000 pounds but not more than 5,000 pounds, 15 cents per pound for each pound in excess of the legal limit; or

(d) If the total gross excess weight is more than 5,000 pounds, 30 cents per pound for each pound in excess of the legal limit.

Any penalty imposed and fines collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be disposed of as provided in section 299D.03, subdivision 5, with the following exceptions:

(a) If the violation occurs in the county, the remaining five-eighths shall be credited to the highway user tax distribution fund.

(b) If the violation occurs within the municipality, and the city attorney prosecutes the offense, and a plea of not guilty is entered, the remaining one-third shall be paid to the highway user tax distribution fund.

**History:** 1980 c 485 s 2; 1980 c 618 s 10

### 169.872 RECEIPT OF CERTAIN OVERWEIGHT LOADS.

Subdivision 1. **Record keeping.** A person who weighs goods before or after unloading or a person who loads or unloads goods on the basis of liquid volume measure shall keep a written record of the origin, weight and composition of each shipment, the date of loading or receipt, the name and address of the shipper, and the registration number of the power unit or some other means of identification by which the shipment was transported. The record shall be retained for 30 days and shall be open to inspection and copying by a state law enforcement officer or motor transport representative upon demand. No search warrant

is required to inspect or copy the record. This subdivision does not apply to a person weighing goods who is not involved in the shipping, receiving and transporting of those goods. This subdivision also does not apply, at any time during the year, to a person who weighs a commodity for which a weight variance is permitted under section 169.83, subdivision 1, clause 3.

**Subd. 2. Evidence.** A record kept and maintained as provided in subdivision 1 that shows that a vehicle has exceeded a gross weight limit imposed by this chapter is relevant evidence of a violation of this chapter. The foregoing provisions do not limit the introduction of other competent evidence bearing upon the question of whether or not there is a violation of the prescribed maximum weight limitation permitted by this chapter.

**Subd. 3. Penalty.** A person who fails to keep and maintain documents as required in subdivision 1 is subject to a civil penalty of not to exceed \$500 for each violation. A civil penalty imposed and collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be credited to the highway user tax distribution fund of the state.

**History:** 1980 c 485 s 3

### **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.

Any person who by his willful acts or failure to exercise due care, damages any road, street, or highway or highway structure shall be liable for the amount thereof.

Damages under this section may be recovered in a civil action brought by the authorities in control of such highway or highway structure.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 130; 1967 c 509 s 1 (2720-280)

### **169.89 PENALTIES.**

**Subdivision 1. Violation.** Unless otherwise declared in this chapter with respect to particular offenses, it is a petty misdemeanor for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required by this chapter; except that: (a) a violation which is committed in a manner or under circumstances so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property; or (b) exclusive of violations relating to the standing or parking of an unattended vehicle, a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, classified therein as a petty misdemeanor, when preceded by two or more petty misdemeanor convictions within the immediate preceding 12 months period; is a misdemeanor to which the provisions of subdivision 2 shall not apply.

**Subd. 2. Penalty; jury trial.** A person charged with a petty misdemeanor is not entitled to a jury trial but shall be tried by a judge without a jury. If convicted, he is not subject to imprisonment but shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.

**Subd. 3. Retroactivity.** The provisions of this section and section 609.04, defining a petty misdemeanor, shall operate not only prospectively but retroactively to include therein all acts and violations, committed prior to August 4,



1971, which are pending before the courts of this state but not to include any matter which has been heard, tried and determined by the courts.

Subd. 4. **Driver's record.** When a person is arrested for a violation of any provision of this chapter, or a violation of any provision of a city ordinance regulating traffic, the court before whom the matter is heard shall determine the driver's record of the person from the commissioner of public safety before pronouncing sentence and the expense incident to the procurement of this information is taxable as costs upon the conviction.

Subd. 5. **Driver improvement clinics; attendance.** In conjunction with or in lieu of other penalties provided by law for violation of this chapter or a municipal ordinance enacted in conformance thereto, the trial court may in its judgment of conviction order the convicted person to attend and satisfactorily complete a course of study at an approved driver improvement clinic. The commissioner of public safety may, upon his own motion or upon recommendation of the court, suspend, for a period of not to exceed 30 days, the operator's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege of any person who fails or refuses to comply with an order to attend a driver improvement clinic. The requirement of attendance at a driver improvement clinic is not a fine, imprisonment, or sentence within the meaning of section 609.02. The court may not order a convicted person to attend a driver improvement clinic which is located more than 35 miles from the person's residence. For the purposes of this section "an approved driver improvement clinic" means a clinic whose curriculum and mode of instruction conform to standards promulgated by the commissioner of public safety.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 131; 1939 c 430 s 27; 1947 c 428 s 34; 1965 c 711 s 5; 1969 c 118 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18; Ex1971 c 27 s 15; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 421 s 2; 1979 c 233 s 1; 1980 c 520 s 2 (2720-281)

#### **169.891 JURISDICTION; LIMITATION OF ACTIONS.**

Subdivision 1. Courts which heretofore have had jurisdiction over misdemeanors have the same jurisdiction over petty misdemeanors.

Subd. 2. The period for commencing an action against any person for a petty misdemeanor shall be the same as that for a misdemeanor.

**History:** Ex1971 c 27 s 16

#### **169.90 OFFENSES.**

Subdivision 1. 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 an offense, 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.

Subd. 2. 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.

Subd. 3. [ Renumbered 169.42, subd 2 ]

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 132,133; Ex1971 c 27 s 17 (2720-282, 2720-283)

#### **169.901 EMPLOYMENT OF INTEMPERATE DRIVERS.**

No person owning or having control of a coach or vehicle traveling upon any road for the conveyance of passengers shall employ any person to drive the same who is addicted to the excessive use of intoxicating liquors.

Every person who violates any provision of this section shall forfeit for each offense such sum as the court shall fix, not exceeding \$50 and be liable to any party injured for all damages sustained by reason of such offense; provided, that complaint for such violation be made within three months, and every action for damages shall be begun within one year, thereafter.

**History:** 1913 c 235 s 66 (2622)

### 169.91 ARRESTS.

Subdivision 1. **Procedure.** When any person is arrested for any violation of this chapter or any other law or ordinance relating to the operation or registration of vehicles punishable as a petty misdemeanor, misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony, the arrested person shall be taken into custody and 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 driving or operating or being in actual physical control of any motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs;

(5) 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;

(6) When there is reasonable cause for believing that the person arrested may leave the state, except as provided in subdivision 4;

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

Subd. 2. [ Repealed, Ex1971 c 27 s 49 ]

Subd. 3. **Notice to appear.** When a person is arrested for any violation of this chapter or any other law relating to motor vehicles, their registration or the operation thereof, or the use of the highways, the arresting officer shall prepare a written notice to appear in court. This place must be before a magistrate within the county in which the offense charged is alleged to have been committed who has jurisdiction and is nearest or most accessible with reference to the place of arrest.

In order to secure release, if the arrested person is eligible for release, without being taken into custody and immediately taken before a magistrate, as provided in this section, and acts amendatory thereof, the arrested person must give his written promise so to appear in court by signing the written notice prepared by the arresting officer. The officer shall retain the original of the notice and deliver the copy thereof marked "SUMMONS" to the person arrested. Thereupon, the officer shall release the person arrested from custody.

Subd. 4. **Reciprocal agreements.** The commissioner of public safety is hereby empowered to enter into and carry out reciprocal agreements with duly authorized representatives of other states, districts, territories and possessions of the United States and provinces of foreign countries having laws or compacts authorizing the release of residents of party jurisdictions upon personal recognition following arrest for violation of a law or ordinance relating to the operation of a motor vehicle.

(a) When a reciprocal agreement is in effect, a law enforcement officer observing a violation of this chapter or any other traffic regulation by a resident of a party jurisdiction shall issue an appropriate citation and shall not, subject to the provisions of clause (b), require the nonresident to post bond or collateral to secure appearance for trial but shall accept the nonresident's personal recognizance, except the nonresident has the right upon request to post bond or collateral in a manner provided by law and in that case the provisions of this subdivision do not apply.

(b) A nonresident shall not be entitled to be released on his personal recognizance if immediate appearance before a magistrate is required by subdivision 1 or the offense is:

(1) One which, upon conviction, would result in the revocation of a person's drivers license under the laws of this state; or

(2) A violation of a highway weight limitation; or

(3) A violation of a law governing transportation of hazardous materials;

or

(4) Driving a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 134,135; 1939 c 430 s 28,29; 1947 c 428 s 35; 1955 c 845 s 1; Ex1961 c 19 s 4; Ex1971 c 27 s 18; 1978 c 783 s 1-3 (2720-284, 2720-285)

#### 169.92 FAILURE TO APPEAR.

Subdivision 1. 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.

Subd. 2. When a nonresident is released upon his written promise to appear and he has not appeared in court or complied with other orders of the court regarding the appearance or proceedings, the court shall notify the commissioner of public safety of the nonappearance upon a form provided by the commissioner.

Subd. 3. Upon receipt of notice from the court that the nonresident did not appear in court following release from custody upon his written promise to appear, the commissioner of public safety shall forward a copy of the report to the driver licensing authority of the state, district, territory, possession or province of residence of the person.

Subd. 4. (a) Upon receiving a report from the driver licensing authority of a state, district, territory or possession of the United States or a province of a foreign country which has an agreement in effect with this state pursuant to section 169.91 that a resident of this state or a person licensed as a driver in this state did not appear in court following written promise to appear in the party jurisdiction, the commissioner of public safety shall notify the driver that his license will be suspended unless the commissioner receives notice within 30 days that the driver has appeared in the appropriate court of the other jurisdiction. If the commissioner does not receive notice of the appearance of the Minnesota resident in the appropriate court within 30 days of the date of the commissioner's notice to the driver, the commissioner may suspend the person's driver's license.

(b) The order of suspension shall indicate the reason for the order and shall notify the person that his license shall remain suspended until he has furnished evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that he has complied with any order entered by the court.

(c) Suspension shall be ordered under this subdivision only when the report from the other jurisdiction clearly identifies the person arrested; describes the violation, specifying the section of the traffic law, ordinance, rule or regulation violated; indicates the location and date of the offense; and describes the vehicle involved and its registration number.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 136; 1978 c 783 s 4 (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.

**History:** 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.

Subd. 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 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 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 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 of public safety 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 of public safety, 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 of public safety 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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 140; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7 (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.

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 141; 1939 c 430 s 30 (2720-291)

**169.965 REGENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TO REGULATE TRAFFIC AND PARKING.**

Subdivision 1. The regents of the University of Minnesota may, from time to time, make, adopt and enforce such rules, regulations or ordinances as it may find expedient or necessary relating to the regulation of traffic and parking, upon parking facilities, highways, streets, private roads and roadways situated on property owned, leased or occupied by the regents of the University of Minnesota or the University of Minnesota.

Subd. 2. Any person violating such rule, regulation or ordinance shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and subject to the provisions of sections 169.891 and 169.90, subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. The prosecution may be before any municipal court or justice of the peace having jurisdiction over the place where the violation occurs.

Subd. 4. Every sheriff, constable, police officer or other peace officer shall see that all rules, regulations and ordinances are obeyed, and shall arrest and prosecute offenders.

Subd. 5. The regents of the University of Minnesota are hereby authorized to appoint and employ, and fix the compensation to be paid out of funds of the regents of the University of Minnesota, persons who shall have and may exercise on property owned, leased or occupied by the regents of the University of Minnesota or the University of Minnesota the same powers of arrest for violation of rules, regulations or ordinances adopted by the regents of the University of Minnesota pursuant to the highway traffic regulation act, chapter 169, as amended, as possessed by a sheriff, constable, police officer or peace officer.

Subd. 6. All persons shall take notice of such rules, regulations, and ordinances without pleading and proof of the same.

Subd. 7. The regents of the University of Minnesota shall fix a date for a public hearing on the adoption of any such proposed rule, regulation or ordinance. Notice of such hearing shall be published in a legal newspaper in the county in which the property affected by the rule, regulation or ordinance is located. The publication shall be at least 15 days and not more than 45 days before the date of the hearing.

If, after the public hearing, the proposed rule, regulation or ordinance shall be adopted by a majority of the members of the board of regents of the University of Minnesota, the same shall be considered to have been enacted by the regents of the University of Minnesota. A copy of the same shall be signed by the president, attested by the secretary and filed with the secretary of state of the state of Minnesota, together with proof of publication. Upon such filing, the rule, regulation or ordinance, as the case may be, shall thenceforth be in full force and effect.

**History:** 1957 c 456 s 1-7; Ex1971 c 27 s 19; 1977 c 82 s 3

**169.966 STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD TO REGULATE TRAFFIC.**

Subdivision 1. The state university board may from time to time make, adopt, and enforce such rules, regulations, or ordinances not inconsistent with this chapter, as it may find expedient or necessary relating to the regulation of traffic and parking upon parking facilities and private roads and roadways situated on property owned, leased, occupied or operated by state universities.

Subd. 1a. The state university board may establish rents, charges or fees in an amount not to exceed \$1 per vehicle per day for the use of parking facilities owned, leased, occupied, or operated by the state university board. The money collected by the board as rents, charges or fees in accordance with this subdivision shall be deposited in the university activity fund and is annually appropriated to the state university board for state university purposes and to maintain and operate parking lots and parking facilities.

Subd. 2. Any person violating such rule, regulation, or ordinance shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and subject to the provisions of sections 169.891 and 169.90, subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. The prosecution may be before any municipal court or justice of the peace having jurisdiction over the place where the violation occurs.

Subd. 4. Every sheriff, constable, police officer, or other peace officer shall see that all rules, regulations, and ordinances are obeyed and shall arrest and prosecute offenders.

Subd. 5. The state university board may appoint and employ, and fix the compensation to be paid out of funds which may be available for such purposes, persons who shall have and may exercise on property owned, leased, or occupied by the state universities the same powers of arrest for violation of rules, regulations, or ordinances adopted by the board as possessed by a sheriff, constable, police officer, or peace officer.

Subd. 6. All persons shall take notice of such rules, regulations, and ordinances without pleading and proof of the same.

Subd. 7. The state university board shall fix a date for a public hearing on the adoption of any such proposed rule, regulation, or ordinance. Notice of such hearing shall be published in a legal newspaper in the county in which the property affected by the rule, regulation, or ordinance is located. The publication shall be at least 15 days and not more than 45 days before the date of the hearing.

If, after the public hearing, the proposed rule, regulation, or ordinance shall be adopted by a majority of the members of the board, the same shall be considered to have been enacted by the board. A copy of the same shall be signed by the president and filed with the secretary of state, together with proof of publication. Upon such filing, the rule, regulation, or ordinance, as the case may be, shall thenceforth be in full force and effect.

**History:** 1961 c 278 s 1; 1969 c 701 s 2,3; 1971 c 23 s 16; Ex1971 c 27 s 20; 1975 c 321 s 2

**169.97 CITATION; HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT.**

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

**History:** 1937 c 464 s 142 (2720-292)

**169.971 DRIVER IMPROVEMENT CLINICS; DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. For the purposes of Laws 1965, Chapter 711 the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Driver improvement clinic" means a formal course of study established under section 169.972, designed primarily to assist persons convicted

of traffic violations in correcting improper driving habits and to familiarize them with the provisions of the highway traffic regulation act.

Subd. 3. "Municipality" means any city, however organized, and any county or town.

Subd. 4. "Court" means a municipal court, however organized, and any district court, county court or justice court.

Subd. 5. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public safety.

**History:** 1965 c 711 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7

### 169.972 ESTABLISHMENT OF DRIVER IMPROVEMENT CLINIC; FEES.

Subdivision 1. Subject to the provisions of Laws 1965, Chapter 711, any court, municipality, association of municipalities, or any regularly established safety organization may establish and conduct a driver improvement clinic.

Subd. 2. The court, municipality or organization conducting a driver improvement clinic may establish reasonable tuition fees not to exceed \$25, but not to exceed the actual cost of the course.

**History:** 1965 c 711 s 2; 1973 c 194 s 1

### 169.973 REGULATION OF CLINICS; DIRECTOR.

Subdivision 1. The commissioner of public safety shall supervise the administration and conduct of driver improvement clinics. The commissioner of public safety shall promulgate rules and regulations setting forth standards for the curriculum and mode of instruction of driver improvement clinics and such other matters as he considers necessary for the proper administration of such clinics. In the preparation of such standards the commissioner of public safety shall consult with the commissioner of education and state associations of judges. A driver improvement clinic established under Laws 1965, Chapter 711 shall conform to the standards promulgated by the commissioner of public safety. The course of study at a driver improvement clinic may not exceed a cumulative total of nine hours with no single class session lasting more than three hours.

Subd. 2. The commissioner of public safety may appoint a driver improvement clinic director within the department of public safety and such other employees as are necessary to accomplish the purposes of Laws 1965, Chapter 711.

**History:** 1965 c 711 s 3; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18; 1971 c 491 s 34

### 169.974 MOTORCYCLES, MOTOR SCOOTERS AND MOTOR BIKES.

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** Motorcycles as used herein shall mean the vehicles defined in section 169.01, subdivision 4.

Subd. 2. **License requirements.** No person shall operate a motorcycle on any street or highway unless he has a valid standard driver's license with a two-wheeled vehicle endorsement as provided by law. No such two-wheeled vehicle endorsement shall be issued unless the person applying therefor has in possession a valid two-wheeled vehicle instruction permit as provided herein, has passed a written examination and road test administered by the department of public safety for such endorsement, and, in the case of applicants under 18 years of age, shall present a certificate or other evidence of having successfully completed an approved two-wheeled vehicle driver's safety course in this or another state, in accordance with such regulations as the commissioner of public safety shall promulgate. A two-wheeled vehicle instruction permit shall be issued to any person over 16 years of age, who is in possession of a valid driver's license, who is enrolled in an approved two-wheeled vehicle driver's safety course, and who has passed a written examination for such permit and has paid such fee as

the commissioner of public safety shall prescribe. A two-wheeled vehicle instruction permit shall be effective for 45 days, and may be renewed under rules to be prescribed by the commissioner of public safety.

No person who is operating by virtue of a two-wheeled vehicle instruction permit shall:

(a) Carry any passengers on the streets and highways of this state on the motorcycle which he is operating;

(b) Drive the motorcycle at night time;

(c) Drive the motorcycle on any highway marked by the commissioner as an interstate highway pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code.

(d) Drive the motorcycle without wearing protective headgear of a type approved by the commissioner of public safety.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, the commissioner of public safety may, however, issue a special motorcycle permit, restricted or qualified in such manner as he shall deem proper, to any person demonstrating a need therefor and unable to qualify for a standard driver's license.

**Subd. 3. Vehicle equipment.** (a) No person shall operate any motorcycle equipped with handlebars if any part of such handlebars extend above the shoulders of the operator while seated with both feet on the ground.

(b) Any motorcycle with a seat designed or suited for use by a passenger shall be equipped with foot rests for the passenger. No person shall operate any motorcycle on the streets and highways after January 1, 1971, unless such motorcycle is equipped with at least one rear view mirror so attached and adjusted as to reflect to the operator a view of the roadway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the motorcycle and is equipped with not less than one horn which shall be audible at a distance of at least 200 feet under normal conditions.

(c) All other applicable provisions of this chapter pertaining to motorcycle and other motor vehicle equipment shall apply to motorcycles, except those which by their nature have no application.

**Subd. 4. Equipment for operators and passengers.** (a) No person under the age of 18 shall operate or ride a motorcycle on the streets and highways of this state, unless he is wearing protective headgear that complies with standards established by the commissioner of public safety; and no person shall operate a motorcycle unless he is wearing an eye-protective device except when the motorcycle is equipped with a wind screen.

(b) The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to persons during their participation in a parade for which parade a permit or other official authorization has been granted by a local governing body or other governmental authority or to persons riding within an enclosed cab.

**Subd. 5. Driving rules.** (a) An operator of a motorcycle shall ride only upon a permanent and regular seat which is attached to the vehicle for such purpose. No other person shall ride on a motorcycle; except that passengers may ride upon a permanent and regular operator's seat if designed for two persons, or upon additional seats attached to the vehicle to the rear of the operator's seat, or in a sidecar attached to the vehicle; provided, however, that the operator of a motorcycle shall not carry passengers in a number in excess of the designed capacity of the motorcycle or sidecar attached to it. No passenger shall be carried in a position that will interfere with the safe operation of the motorcycle or the view of the operator.

(b) No person shall ride upon any motorcycle as a passenger unless, when sitting astride his seat, he can reach the foot rests with both feet.



(c) No person, except passengers of sidecars, or drivers and passengers of three-wheeled motorcycles, shall operate or ride upon a motorcycle except while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on either side of the motorcycle.

(d) No person shall operate a motorcycle while carrying packages, bundles, or articles which prevent him from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

(e) No person shall operate a motorcycle between lanes of moving or stationary vehicles headed in the same direction, nor shall any person drive a motorcycle abreast of or overtake or pass another vehicle within the same traffic lane, except that motorcycles may, with the consent of both drivers, be operated not more than two abreast in a single traffic lane.

(f) All motor vehicles including motorcycles are entitled to the full use of a traffic lane and no motor vehicle shall be driven or operated in such a manner so as to deprive any motorcycle of the full use of a traffic lane.

(g) Every person operating a motorcycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to a motor vehicle as provided by law, except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application.

(h) Clause (e) of this subdivision shall not apply to police officers in the performance of their official duties.

(i) No person shall operate a motorcycle on a street or highway unless the headlight or headlights are lighted at all times the motorcycle is so operated.

**Subd. 6. Negligence; damages without protective headgear.** In an action to recover damages for negligence resulting in any head injury to an operator or passenger of a motorcycle, evidence of whether or not the injured person was wearing protective headgear of a type approved by the commissioner shall be admissible only with respect to the question of damages for head injuries. Damages for head injuries of any person who was not wearing protective headgear shall be reduced to the extent that those injuries could have been avoided by wearing protective headgear of a type approved by the commissioner. For the purposes of this subdivision "operator or passenger" means any operator or passenger regardless of whether that operator or passenger was required by law to wear protective headgear approved by the commissioner.

**Subd. 7. Noise limits.** After December 31, 1978, noise regulations adopted by the pollution control agency for motor vehicles pursuant to section 169.693 shall also apply to motorcycles.

**History:** 1967 c 875 s 1-5; 1969 c 1123 s 1-3; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18; 1971 c 226 s 1; 1971 c 491 s 35; 1974 c 133 s 1; 1975 c 29 s 3-5; 1976 c 295 s 1; 1977 c 17 s 1-4; 1977 c 134 s 1

### **169.98 POLICE OR PATROL VEHICLES; SECURITY GUARD VEHICLES; MARKINGS AND COLORS.**

Subdivision 1. Except as provided in subdivision 2, all motor vehicles which are primarily used in the enforcement of highway traffic regulations by the highway patrol or for general uniform patrol assignment by any municipal police department or other law enforcement agency, except conservation officers, shall have uniform colors and markings as provided herein. Motor vehicles of:

(a) Municipal police departments, including the University of Minnesota police department and park police units, and constables shall be predominantly blue, brown, green or white;

(b) The highway patrol shall be predominantly maroon; and

(c) The county sheriffs' office shall be predominantly brown or white.

The identity of the governmental unit operating the vehicle shall be displayed on both front door panels and on the rear of the vehicle. The identity may be in the form of a shield or emblem, or may be the word "police", "sheriff", or the words "state patrol" or "conservation officer", as appropriate, with letters not less than 2-1/2 inches high, one inch wide and of a three-eighths inch brush stroke. The identity shall be of a color contrasting with the background color so that the motor vehicle is easily identifiable as belonging to a specific type of law enforcement agency. Each vehicle shall be marked with its own identifying number on the rear of the vehicle. The number shall be printed in the same size and color required pursuant to this subdivision for identifying words which may be displayed on the vehicle.

Subd. 2. The commissioner of public safety may authorize the use of specially marked highway patrol vehicles, that have only a marking composed of a shield on the right door with the words inscribed thereon "Minnesota State Patrol" for primary use in the enforcement of highway traffic regulations when in his judgment the use of specially marked highway patrol vehicles will contribute to the safety of the traveling public. The number of such specially marked highway patrol vehicles used in the enforcement of highway traffic regulations shall not exceed ten percent of the total number of highway patrol vehicles used in traffic law enforcement. All specially marked highway patrol vehicles shall be operated by uniformed members of the highway patrol and so equipped and operated as to clearly indicate to the driver of a car which is signaled to stop that the specially marked highway patrol vehicle is being operated by the highway patrol.

Subd. 3. All motor vehicles which are used by security guards in the course of their employment may have any color other than those specified in subdivision 1 for law enforcement vehicles. The identity of the security service shall be displayed on the motor vehicle as required for law enforcement vehicles.

Subd. 4. Subdivisions 1 to 3 shall apply to those motor vehicles purchased subsequent to January 1, 1981.

**History:** 1959 c 554 s 1,2; 1961 c 458 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 4; 1971 c 491 s 36; 1980 c 578 s 10

### **169.99 UNIFORM TRAFFIC TICKET.**

Subdivision 1. Except as provided in subdivision 3, there shall be a uniform ticket issued throughout the state by the police and peace officers or by any other person for violations of the highway traffic regulations, which are Minnesota Statutes 1957, Chapter 169 and acts amendatory thereof, and ordinances in conformity thereto. Such uniform traffic ticket shall be in the form and have the effect of a summons and complaint. There shall also be included on the uniform ticket a receipt in lieu of bail which, when signed by the defendant, shall be a guarantee by him of his appearance in the court having jurisdiction over the matter. The uniform traffic ticket shall consist of four parts, on paper sensitized so that copies may be made without the use of carbon paper, as follows:

(1) The complaint, with reverse side for officer's notes for testifying in court, driver's past record, and court's action, printed on white paper;

(2) The abstract of court record for the department of public safety, which shall be a copy of the complaint with the certificate of conviction on the reverse side, printed on yellow paper;

(3) The police record, which shall be a copy of the complaint and of the reverse side of copy (1), printed on pink paper;

(4) The summons, with, on the reverse side, such information as the court may wish to give concerning the traffic violations bureau, and a plea of guilty and waiver, printed on off-white tag stock.

Subd. 1a. In every charge of a violation of any provision of this chapter, the uniform traffic ticket shall contain a blank or space wherein the officer shall specify his opinion as to whether or not an offense which is otherwise a petty misdemeanor was committed in a manner or under circumstances so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property.

Subd. 2. The attorney general shall by rule or regulation promulgated in the manner provided by law prescribe the detailed form of the uniform traffic ticket, and shall revise the uniform ticket on such subsequent occasions as he deems necessary and proper to keep the uniform ticket in conformity with highway traffic regulations. In the manner provided by law the attorney general shall give notice to all interested parties of a hearing to be held prior to the promulgation of the uniform traffic ticket or any changes therein. The uniform traffic ticket shall not be in mandatory use throughout the state until 18 months after the attorney general has first promulgated the uniform traffic ticket and the attorney general shall enforce the uniformity of the promulgated traffic ticket throughout the state.

Subd. 3. Any city of the first class, through its governing body, may alter by deletion or addition the uniform traffic ticket in such manner as it deems advisable for use in such city. In respect to any public corporation organized and existing pursuant to sections 473.601 to 473.679, whose ordinances and regulations for the control of traffic are enforced through prosecution in the municipal court of one or the other of the cities of the first class included within such public corporation, the traffic ticket used in such enforcement shall conform to that used by the city of the first class in whose municipal court its ordinances and regulations are enforced, except as to color and as to information uniquely applying to such public corporation and to its ordinances and regulations.

**History:** *Ex1961 c 19 s 1-3; 1963 c 3 s 1; 1971 c 491 s 37; Ex1971 c 27 s 21; 1980 c 509 s 60*

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