

### NEW RAAD LAWS BP THE LAST LEGISLATTRE

Five Improvement Bills, Affecting Highway Construction and Maintenance Passed at Last Session.

The 1919 session of the Nebraska legislature passed five important bills affecting highway construction and maintenance throughout the state. These bills, summarized, are as follows:

#### State Highway System Established.

House Roll 298—A bill providing for a system of state highways, to include seventy-nine new road sections, besides nine that were previously laid out, are to be constructed and improved with state and federal funds. Requires state engineer by January 1, 1920, to file with each county clerk a map showing all state highways within the county. Authorize a state highways department, which will build roads, to relocate, alter or widen them. Counties are required to maintain state roads, including bridges and culverts, and to provide markers. Where this is not done, the State Highways Department may do the work and charge the cost against any balance remaining to the county's credit.

#### Detour Routes and Temporary Closing.

The state highways department is given authority to contract with county boards for the use of road machinery on state highways. It may close temporarily any portion of a state highway for the purpose of repairing or improving it. Any one tampering with signs announcing a closed road will be subject to a \$100 fine or thirty days in jail, or both. Detour routes are to be provided when regular roads are closed.

#### Licenses Available for Road Construction.

In addition to the state highway fund, there are made available for state road construction and maintenance the receipts from the 75% of motor vehicle licenses paid over to the department. The state engineer is authorized to keep \$5,000 deposited in a bank, against which he may draw official checks in payment of small emergency claims for labor and other things. He must file a surety bond for \$10,000 to cover his acts in this connection. All emergency claims paid will be subject to the approval of the State Highways Board and the State Auditor.

#### State Divided Into Project Districts.

Provision is made for dividing the State into project districts, with not more than five counties to a district, and these have been approved by the Federal Good Roads Bureau. Each county is to receive its full share of the Federal and State aid funds. Automobile taxes paid in are to be used in the county in which same are collected.

#### Weight and Highway Signs Regulated.

The use of state highways is prohibited to motor vehicles over 7 1/2 feet wide or 12 feet high. Vehicles with a load limit exceeding 600 pounds for each inch width of wheel tire are also barred. A truck which, including its own weight and cargo, carries over 7,000 pounds combined lean on any one wheel, may not be used on a state highway without special permission of the State Highways Board. Penalty, \$50 to \$500 fine.

State Highway Board is given authority to make rules and regulations for travel upon state highways, to be issued in pamphlet form and furnished free of charge to the general public.

Advertising signs along or upon them are forbidden, except by a written permit of the Board, and upon payment of a fee ranging from 25 cents to \$5.00. No sign shall cover more than ten square feet of surface. Printed sale bills will not be considered advertising signs. For operating a vehicle so as to cause moderate wear or damage to a state highway, or to endanger the safety of others, a misdemeanor, penalty of \$25 to \$100, or jail term of thirty days, or both, is specified.

#### Motor License Fees Raised.

House Roll 299—This provides for transfer of motor vehicle registration and licensing bureau from the Secretary of State's bureau to the State Highways Department. An entire revision and redrafting of old

law. Fixed annual license fees as follows: Motorcycles and two-wheel trucks of less than 1,000 pounds weight, \$5; automobiles, \$10 minimum, with an additional 50 cents for each 100 pounds weight above 2,000. Dealers will pay \$1 apiece for duplicate numbers. For trucks and cars built to carry more than seven passengers, the fee will be based on the weight. When loaded to capacity and each passenger's weight will be calculated at 150 pounds. Publicly-owned vehicles are exempt. After July 1 of each year, the fee for the remainder of that year will be one-half the regular amount.

#### Method of Recording Applications.

Records must be kept, both alphabetically and in the numerical order of applications filed, showing the names of owners, numbers issued, and itemized data in regard to each machine, including the make, engine, number of cylinders, and other data.

These will be open to public inspection. Number plates will be issued as heretofore. Lost number plates will be replaced for \$1 each.

#### Registration Fees to County Treasurer.

Registration fees are to be paid to the county treasurer, who will set aside 25% of the money derived therefrom for the county road dragging fund. The remainder will be sent to the State Treasurer and placed in a state highway fund, to be used in such manner that all the money received from each county shall be expended for road improvement in that county.

#### Age and Speed Limitations Placed.

It is declared unlawful for any one under 16 years of age, or any intoxicated person, to drive a motor vehicle. The speed limits prescribed are "a reasonable and proper speed, having regard for the traffic and use of the road and not such as to endanger life or limb, with a maximum of 35 miles per hour in the country. This will not apply to physicians, surgeons, police or fire vehicles answering emergency calls. At an intersection, bridge, sharp curve, or steep incline, the speed is limited to 15 miles per hour.

In case of accident, the driver of a car must stop and render assistance, carry any injured person to a physician, surgeon or hospital, and give information regarding his name, his license number, and the names of any other passengers accompanying him. Provision is made for lights, warning signals and brakes, similar to the regulations in the former statute.

Penalty for violation, fine not more than \$50 for first offense; \$50 to \$100 fine, or jail term not more than sixty days, or both, for each subsequent offense. In case any person is killed, maimed or disfigured through the carelessness of any driver, fine of \$200 to \$500 or one to ten years in the penitentiary.

#### Purchase of Land and Materials Authorized.

Senate File 112—Authorized State Highways Board to acquire land and appurtenances thereon, by purchase and condemnation, purchase equipment and employ labor for the purpose of obtaining materials for construction and maintaining state highways. Permits sale of any surplus of such materials to counties, municipalities and contractors at cost for road, street and alley improvement. Cost and proceeds to come out of and be paid into State Aid Road Fund. Highways Board may contract with Board of Control for use of convict labor.

#### County Paving Law Repealed.

House Roll 68—Repeals county paving law so far as counties of 20,000 to 40,000 population are concerned, leaving it in effect only in Lancaster and Douglas Counties.

Makes petition sufficient if signed by a majority of the resident property owners chargeable with the cost of the improvement, on the basis of 50, 25, 15 and 10 per cent in four zones extending for a maximum distance of two miles from the roadway to be improved.

#### State Aid Road Fund Created.

House Roll 300—Creates a state aid road fund and levies a tax of 3 mills for the years 1919 and 1920 for this fund. Appropriations therefrom the sum of \$1,546,631 for each of the two years, or \$3,093,262 for the biennium, to match an equal amount of Federal aid funds. Requires State Highways Board to report monthly to the State Auditor and all county clerks the amount credited to each county as Federal and State aid. A separate account is to be kept for each county, showing expenditures as made for road work. County boards and highway commissioners are to notify the Governor if they have any objection to the statements as rendered, or to the disbursements. Five per cent is allowed for engineering expenses and administration of the law. Emergency.

#### Postmaster Examination.

At the request of the Postmaster General the United States Civil Service Commission has announced an examination to be held at Alliance, Neb., on June 18, 1919 for the position of postmaster at Antioch. This office has an annual compensation of 1,500.

To be eligible for this examination an applicant must be a citizen of the United States, must actually reside within the delivery of the office and have so resided at the time the present vacancy occurred.

Applicants must have reached their twenty-first but not their sixty-fifth birthday on the date of the examination.

Application Form 2241 and full

information concerning the requirements of the examination may be secured from the postmaster at the place of vacancy or from the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C. Applications should be properly executed and filed with the Commission at Washington, D. C., in time to arrange for the examination of the applicant.

The Beamans had just had their first quarrel, and the bride sobbed softly to herself as the male brute whistled the air of a popular tune. "Don't you think," asked the fair young thing plaintively, "that a husband should occasionally tell his wife that she's beautiful?" "No!" replied the soulless beast. "It's wholly superfluous! If she is beautiful she knows she is, and if she isn't beautiful she thinks she is."

When a bellhop breezed thru the lobby of the hotel whistling loudly the manager pounced on him. "Don't you know it's against the rules for an employe to whistle while on duty," he demanded sternly. "Ain't whistling," protested the boy. "I'm paging Mrs. Jones' dog."

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