

## CHAPTER 141

## HIGHWAYS

## RULES OF THE ROAD

(S. B. No. 223, by Senators Dickinson and Colwell)

## AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS; TO REGULATE ITS EXPENDITURES; TO PROVIDE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF PUBLIC HIGHWAYS; AND TO REPEAL ALL ACTS AND PARTS OF ACTS IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ACT.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

## Definitions

## Public highways

## Vehicle

## Maximum speed

Section 1. (a) The term "Public Highways" as used in this Act shall include such roads and thoroughfares in the State of Colorado as shall have been designated and accepted as such by the State Highway Commission, and all county roads together with the bridges, culverts and embankments thereon, and the entire right of way thereof.

(b) The term "vehicle" as used in this Act shall include bicycles, motorcycles, tricycles, automobiles, auto trucks, trailers and any motor driven vehicle, all horse drawn vehicles, and all push carts or other hand propelled vehicles.

Section 2. No vehicle shall be propelled along or upon any public highway at a speed exceeding thirty-five (35) miles per hour; said maximum speed shall be reduced to twenty (20) miles per hour on

all mountain roads; to twelve (12) miles per hour on platted mountain curves; to eighteen (18) miles per hour on all other curves; and to twenty (20) miles per hour in the case of vehicles weighing more than 10,000 pounds, including their load; and in case of any vehicle traveling up or down any mountain highway having a grade of ten per cent or more, said maximum speed shall be reduced to fifteen (15) miles per hour.

Mountain roads  
Curves

Heavy vehicles

On heavy grades

Section 3. (a) All vehicles shall be propelled along all public highways in a careful and proper manner, and with due regard for the safety and convenience of pedestrians and vehicles thereon.

Care to be used

(b) Vehicles shall travel upon the right side of public highways unless the road ahead on the left side is clear and unobstructed for at least 100 yards, except on mountain roads where vehicles shall be under control at all times, viz.: must be able to stop within the distance possible of view, and in all cases when crossing intersecting highways. Slowly moving vehicles shall keep as far to the right as possible, leaving more swiftly moving vehicles and traffic to the left.

Travel on right side

Exceptions

Slowly moving vehicles

(c) Vehicles proceeding in opposite directions shall pass each other to the right, each giving to the other one-half of the road as nearly as possible.

Vehicles meeting

(d) Vehicles overtaking other vehicles proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof, and shall not again drive to the right until reasonably clear of the overtaken vehicle. It shall be the duty of the driver or operator of a motor vehicle about to overtake another to give a suitable signal audible to the driver or operator of the vehicle to be passed. It shall be the duty of the driver or operator

Overtaking vehicles

Signals

or of an overtaken vehicle to give way to the right, upon the said signal being given.

Meeting vehicles  
have right of  
way

(e) Two vehicles which are passing each other in opposite directions shall have the right of way, and no other vehicle to the rear of either of such two vehicles shall pass or attempt to pass such two vehicles, while they are passing.

Vehicles at  
intersections

(f) All vehicles approaching an intersection of a public highway, with the intention of turning thereat, shall in turning to the right keep to the right of the center of such intersection, and in turning to the left shall run beyond the center of such intersection passing to the right thereof, before turning such vehicle toward the left. For the purpose of this subdivision the "center of such intersection" shall be held to mean the meeting point of the medial lines of the two highways traversed by the vehicles making the turn.

Center of  
intersection

Right of way  
at intersection

(g) Excepting where controlled by such traffic ordinances or regulations as are permitted under this Act the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right of way at the intersection of their paths to a vehicle approaching from the right unless such vehicle approaching from the right is further from the point of the intersection of their paths than such first named vehicle.

Parkway or isle  
of safety

(h) Any vehicle traveling on a public highway which is divided longitudinally by a park-way or an isle of safety, shall keep to the right of such park-way or isle of safety unless otherwise directed by the provisions of any ordinance, rule or regulation of competent local authorities.

(i) As between vehicles meeting on mountain

highways having a grade of 10 per cent or more, ascending vehicles shall have the right of way over the descending vehicles, except where it is more practicable for the ascending vehicle to return to a turnout.

Meeting on  
mountain high-  
ways

Section 4. (a) No person shall operate a vehicle upon any public highway while in any degree under the influence of any alcoholic drink or any narcotic or exhilarating drug.

Drivers not use  
liquor or drugs

(b) In all passing and overtaking such assistance shall be given the occupants of each vehicle respectively to the other as the circumstances shall reasonably demand in order to obtain clearance and avoid accidents; every person having control or charge of any vehicle upon any public highway and approaching any vehicle drawn by a horse or horses, or any horse upon which any person is riding, shall operate, manage and control such vehicle in such a manner as to exercise every reasonable precaution to prevent the frightening of any such horse or horses and to insure the safety and protection of any person riding or driving the same; and if such horse or horses appear frightened the person in control of such vehicle shall reduce its speed, and if requested by signal or otherwise by the driver or rider of such horse or horses shall not proceed further toward such animal or animals unless such movement be necessary to avoid accident or injury, until such animal or animals be under the control of the driver or rider thereof.

Avoidance of  
accidents

Approaching  
horses

Precautions

(c) The person in charge of any vehicle in or upon any public highway before turning, stopping or changing the course of such vehicle, and before turning such vehicle when starting same, shall see

Turning,  
stopping or  
changing course

first that there is sufficient space for such movement to be made in safety and if the movement or operation of other vehicles may reasonably be affected by such turning, stopping or changing of course, shall give plainly visible signal to the persons operating, driving or in charge of such vehicles of his intention so to turn, stop or change his course, either by the use of his hand and arm, or other signal which shall be visible from the rear.

Signals

Signal of  
turning to left

When the signal required by this section is given by the use of the hand and arm, the intention to turn such vehicle toward the left shall be indicated by extending the hand and arm horizontally from and beyond the left side of the vehicle; when the signal to be given is to indicate the intention to stop a vehicle or to abruptly or suddenly check its speed, such signal if given with the hand and arm, shall be given by extending the hand and arm out from and beyond either side of the vehicle and pointed in a downward direction.

Signal of  
stopping

Persons under  
15 not operate  
motor vehicle

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of fifteen (15) years to operate or drive a motor vehicle, and it shall also be unlawful for the owner or for any person having in his charge or control any motor vehicle to knowingly permit any person under the age of fifteen (15) years to operate or drive same.

Lamps

(e) Every automobile and motor truck operating upon a public highway shall carry at least two lighted lamps, one of which shall be placed on and be clearly visible from the front of said automobile and the other of which shall be so placed as to illuminate the rear number plate, and at the same time display towards the rear, a red light, which lights shall be

Positions

Time of  
lighting

lighted from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise. If a trailer is attached a rear light shall be placed thereon.

Light on trailer

(f) No vehicle shall be stopped or permitted to stand on the travelled portion of any public highway for the purpose of making repairs, except such repairs as it may be necessary to make in order to remove it therefrom; and no vehicle shall be stopped, permitted to stand, or be parked thereon for camping or any other purpose.

Stopping on highways

(g) On highways which are insufficient in width to permit vehicles to pass at places other than turnouts, vehicles shall be stopped only at such turnouts.

Turnouts

(h) When highways are soft on account of storms, operators of vehicles, as herein defined, shall exercise reasonable care not to so load or drive thereon as to unnecessarily cut up same or make ruts therein, and during the construction or reconstruction of any county road or State highway, it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to commit any act which will damage the property of the contractor or the property of the State or any county of the State.

Soft highways

Precautions during repairs

Section 5. (a) No vehicle bearing a load exceeding 8 tons on four wheels shall be propelled on any part of a public highway except by written permission of the Board of Commissioners of the County as to County Highways, or the State Highway Department, as to State Highways.

Maximum load

Permission

(b) No vehicle having lugs or spikes upon any wheel shall be propelled along any part of a paved or cement public highway, in such a way as to substantially damage same.

Lugs or spikes

Placing sub-  
stances on  
highway

(c) No person shall knowingly place or leave on any public highway any stone, wood, timber, iron, rock, log or any substance of any nature, of a size, sufficient to interfere by any possibility and in any degree with the safe, uninterrupted or smooth progress of any vehicle thereon, nor place, scatter, drop or leave on any public highway any tack, nail, glass, wire or any substance that may be, or be capable of becoming pointed, sharpened or cutting or injurious in an degree to pneumatic tires. No person shall permit any such act to be done which it is in his power to prevent. No person shall permit any water under his control to flow over any public highway.

Tacks, glass,  
etc.

Water flowing  
on highway

Excavation in  
highway

(d) No person shall excavate a ditch or other aqueduct, or construct any flume, or pipe line, or any steam, electric or other railway across any public highway except with the express written consent or permission of the Board of County Commissioners of the County, and upon such terms as they may prescribe.

Permission

Dimmers

Bright lights

(e) All motor driven vehicles, as defined in this Act, operated upon a public highway shall be equipped with dimmers. Search, spot or other bright lights shall be turned off upon the approach of other vehicles and shall not be turned on until after the approaching vehicle is passed. Provided, however, that it shall not be necessary to turn off search or spot lights, if they are so directed as to prevent their direct light from falling on the left three-fourths of the road and at a distance greater than 30 feet in front of the car to which attached.

Violation

Section 6. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall

be punished by a fine of not more than \$300.00, or by imprisonment in the County Jail for not more than thirty days, or by both fine and imprisonment. All

Penalty  
Disposition of fines  
fines so imposed and collected shall be paid into the General Road Fund in county where fine is assessed.

Approved April 5, 1921.