The County Commissioners of the several counties of the State, the Highways Commission thereof or other public boards or officers having control over the public bridges and culverts of said counties, the State Roads Commission in the case of bridges and culverts under its control, the public boards or officers having control over bridges between adjacent counties, turnpike or plank road companies, and bridge companies or other individuals or corporations owning or controlling private or quasi public bridges used by the public for compensation or otherwise, shall have the power and right to regulate the weight of wagons, trucks, road engines, road rollers, traction engines, threshing machines or other vehicles of any kind passing over such bridges and culverts, and the rate of speed of such vehicles while passing over the same, by posting and maintaining conspicuously at both ends of or entrances to said bridges or culverts signboards with lettering not less than three inches in height, worded as follows, to wit: "Warning-Weight not to exceed (here insert numerals) pounds. Speed not to exceed (here insert numerals) miles per hour," which shall be taken to mean that no vehicle of any kind, as above enumerated, weighing, with or without any load which may be in or upon the same, more than the number of pounds specified on said signboard, shall pass or be drawn, driven, propelled or in any other manner taken over said bridge or culvert, and that no such vehicle of any kind as above enumerated shall pass or be drawn, driven, propelled or in any other manner taken over said bridge or culvert at a greater rate of speed than that specified on said signboard; provided, however, that no such sign or signs shall be posted as above without authority in writing from the chief engineer of the State Roads Commission having first been •had and obtained; and it is hereby made the duty of said chief engineer of the State Roads Commission, upon receiving a request for such authority, to cause an investigation of the carrying capacity of such bridge or culvert and to furnish to the applicant his authority in writing to erect and maintain signboards as aforesaid. Any individual, firm, co-partnership, corporation or other person, whether the owner of such vehicle, the person in charge and control over the same, or employee or agent of any such, who shall draw, drive, propel or in any other manner take or cause to be taken, drawn, driven or propelled over any such bridge or culvert posted as aforesaid any wagon, truck, road engine, road roller, traction engine, threshing machine or other vehicle of any kind, weighing, with or without any load which may be in or upon the same, more than the number of pounds specified on the signboard so erected at