

posted as above without authority 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 *except that such authority need not be had by, nor the State Roads Commission be required to make such investigation in, any county of the State which in the judgment of its county commissioners or county council has adequate facilities for carrying on any design, construction, reconstruction or maintenance of county owned bridges.* Any individual, firm, co-SUCH INVESTIGATION IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, BALTIMORE, HARFORD, MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTIES PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT WHENEVER POSTINGS ARE ACCOMPLISHED BY THESE COUNTIES COPIES OF THE ENGINEERING ANALYSIS WHICH FORMED THE BASIS OF THE POSTING DETERMINATIONS ARE FURNISHED THE STATE ROADS COMMISSION AT THE TIME OF THE POSTING. 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 the entrances or approaches to such bridge or culvert, or at a greater rate of speed than that specified on said signboard, without a permit in writing from the owner or authorities in control of said bridge or culvert, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars for each offense, such fine to be paid to the owner of or public body having control over said bridge or culvert; in addition to which the owner or person in control of such vehicle shall be liable to the owner or authorities in control of said bridge or culvert for all damages which may be done the same by the violation of the regulation so prescribed, and shall have no redress against the owner or authorities having control over said bridge or culvert in the event of the breaking down or giving away of the same and consequent injury to such vehicle. Any owner of any such bridge or culvert, or public officer or board, or member of such board, or employee or agent thereof, EXCEPT AS HEREIN ABOVE PROVIDED, who shall cause any such signboard to be posted without the authority in writing from the chief engineer of the State Roads Commission as aforesaid shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and upon conviction be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars. In any trial of any person charged with a violation of any of the provisions of this section oral proof of the existence of such signboard posted as herein provided, and its contents, shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of the validity of the regulation thereon prescribed.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1968.

Approved May 7, 1968.