

CHAPTER 518.

AN ACT defining motor vehicles and providing for the registration of the same, and uniform rules regulating the use and speed thereof.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland.* That every resident of this State who is the owner of a motor vehicle, and every non-resident owner whose motor vehicle shall be driven in this State, shall file in the office of the Secretary of State a declaraton duly verified that such owner is competent to drive the motor vehicle for which application for license is made, and a written statement containing the name and address of such owner, together with a brief description of the character of such motor vehicle, including the name of the maker and the manufacturer's number of the motor vehicle, if number there be, and the rated horse power of the motor vehicle, and shall pay to the Secretary of State a registration fee of one dollar for each motor vehicle; the Secretary of State shall issue for each motor vehicle so registered a certificate, properly numbered, stating that such motor vehicle is registered in accordance with this section, and shall cause the name of such owner, with his address, the number of his certificate and a description of such motor vehicle or motor vehicles, to be entered in alphabetical order of the

Pertaining to
motor vehicles
and owners of
same.

owners' names in a book to be kept for such purpose. This section shall not apply to manufacturers or dealers in this State of motor vehicles, except as to vehicles kept by such manufacturer or dealer for private use or for hire.

Does not apply to manufacturers.

All motor vehicles to display license numbers.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That the owner of each and every motor vehicle driving the same upon the public streets, public roads, turnpikes, parks, public parkways, public driveways or other public highways in this State shall have the number of the license issued as aforesaid by the Secretary of State upon the back of every such motor vehicle, in a conspicuous place, so as to be plainly visible at all times during daylight, such numbers to be separate Arabic numerals, not less than three inches in height, the strokes to be of a width not less than three-eighths of an inch, and, excepting the numbers upon the lights, as required by Section 3 of this Act, such owner shall not be required to place any other marks of identity upon said motor vehicle.

Lighted lamps to be used after night-fall.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That every motor vehicle shall carry, during the period from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise, at least two lighted lamps, showing white lights, visible at least two hundred feet in the direction toward which such motor vehicle is proceeding, and shall also exhibit at least one red light, visible in the reverse direction; upon the sides or fronts of the two aforesaid lamps showing white lights shall be displayed, in such manner as to be plainly visible when said lamps are lighted, the number of the license issued as aforesaid by the Secretary of State, the same to be in separate Arabic numerals, not less than one inch in height; every motor vehicle shall also be provided with good and efficient brake or brakes, and shall also be provided with suitable bell, horn or other signal device.

Regulating rate of speed.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted*, That the following rate of speed may be maintained, but shall not be exceeded, upon any public street, public road or turnpike, public park or parkway, or public driveway, or public highway in this State by anyone driving a motor vehicle:

Curves and crossroads.

(1) A speed of one mile in ten minutes upon the sharp curves of a highway and at the intersection of prominent crossroads where such road or highway passes through the open country.

In cities, towns, etc.

(2) A speed of one mile in ten minutes where such street or highway passes through the built-up portions of a city, town or village.

(3) Elsewhere except as otherwise provided in Sub-divisions 1 and 2 of this section a speed of one mile in six minutes; provided, however, that in meeting or passing a person driving or riding or leading a horse or horses or other animals, such speed shall be reduced to a mile in ten minutes, and that nothing in this section contained shall permit any person to drive a motor vehicle at any speed greater than is reasonable, having regard to the traffic and use of highways, or so as to endanger the life or limb or to injure the property of any person; and it is further provided that nothing in this section contained shall affect the right of any person injured either in his person or property by the negligent operation of a motor vehicle to sue and recover damages as heretofore.

Speed must be a reasonable one.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted*, That the person in charge of said motor vehicle, at the signal or request of any person riding a horse, or of any person leading or driving a horse or horses or other animals, or at the indication of such horse or horses or other animals becoming alarmed by said motor vehicle, shall go as far as practicable to the side of the road and remain stationary until the said horse or horses or other animals have passed to a safe distance, in the meantime making as little noise as possible with the steam.

Rights of horsemen and others.

SEC. 6. *And be it enacted*, That any person driving a motor vehicle the owner of which shall not have complied with the provisions of this Act, or which motor vehicle shall display a fictitious number, the same being a number other than that designated for such motor vehicle by the Secretary of State, shall, upon conviction, be fined in a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, and, in default of payment thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding thirty days; provided, this section shall not be construed to prohibit a motor vehicle displaying the proper number of its license from also displaying any other number for any lawful purpose.

Misdemeanor to display fictitious number.

SEC. 7. *And be it enacted*, That any person driving a motor vehicle upon any public streets, public highways, public roads, turnpikes, parks, public parkways or public driveways in this State in a race or on a bet or wager shall, upon conviction, be fined in a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, and, in default of payment thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding thirty days.

Prohibiting racing on highways.

SEC. 8. *And be it enacted*, That all motor vehicles used in this State shall be provided with a suitable lock to lock the starting lever, throttle or switch by which the vehicle is

Vehicles to be locked when unattended.

LAWS OF MARYLAND.

started, and no person shall allow any motor vehicle operated by him to stand or remain unattended on any road in said State, or street or road in any town or city in said State, without having first locked the lever, throttle or switch by which the vehicle may be set in motion.

SEC. 9. *And be it enacted*, That any person violating the provisions of this Act shall, except as otherwise provided herein, upon conviction, be fined in a sum not exceeding the amount hereinafter set forth: For a violation of Section 1, fifty dollars; for a violation of Section 2, twenty dollars; for a violation of Section 3, twenty dollars; for a violation of Section 4, Subdivision 1, twenty-five dollars; for a violation of Section 4, Subdivision 2, twenty-five dollars; for a violation of Section 4, Subdivision 3, fifty dollars; for a violation of Section 5, fifty dollars or confinement in the county jail for not less than thirty days, or both, in the discretion of the magistrate or court. In default of the payment of any of the above fines there shall be imposed an imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding thirty days; provided, that any offender who shall have been guilty of a violation of this Act and sentenced therefor, and who shall be convicted of a second offense of the same violation, may for such second offense be fined in double the amount herein prescribed for the first offense, or may be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding three months.

SEC. 10. *And be it enacted*, That whenever the term "motor vehicle" is used in this Act it shall be construed to include automobiles, locomobiles and all other vehicles propelled otherwise than by muscular power, except the cars of electric and steam railways and other motor vehicles running upon rails or tracks; but nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to apply to or affect bicycles, tricycles or such other vehicles as are propelled exclusively by muscular power. This Act shall not apply to the vehicles known as motorcycles, but shall apply only to those mechanically-propelled vehicles having more than two wheels.

Approved April 12, 1904.
