

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 559

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*House of Representatives, March 13, 1917.*

*Referred to Committee on Public Utilities and five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.*

*W. R. ROIX, Clerk.*

*Presented by Mr. Gannett of Augusta.*

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

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AN ACT to regulate Motor Vehicles as common carriers.

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*Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:*

Section 1. Every person, firm or corporation operating  
2 any motor vehicle along and upon any public street or high-  
3 way for the carriage of passengers for hire and affording  
4 a means of local, street or highway transportation similar  
5 to that afforded by street railways by accepting and dis-  
6 charging such persons as may offer themselves for trans-  
7 portation along the course on which such vehicle is oper-  
8 ated or may be running is hereby declared to be a common  
9 carrier under Sec. 15 of Chap. 55 R. S. and within the  
10 jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission and is hereby

11 required to furnish reasonable and adequate service at just  
12 and reasonable rates and is hereby required to operate over  
13 such general routes or within such territory, and during  
14 such hours as may be reasonably required for accommoda-  
15 tion of the public in accordance with the following provis-  
16 ions, and the rules and regulations of the Public Utilities  
17 Commission.

Sect. 2. a. No person, firm or corporation shall operate  
2 any motor vehicle for the purposes described in section  
3 one unless there shall have been filed with and accepted by  
4 the Public Utilities Commission of Maine a good and suf-  
5 ficient indemnity bond in the sum of five hundred dollars  
6 for each passenger authorized to be carried in said motor  
7 vehicle at any one time issued by some surety or indemnity  
8 company authorized to transact business within the state  
9 of Maine which said bond shall describe such vehicle by  
10 factory number, maker's name, number of passengers capa-  
11 ble of being accommodated therein at one time, and number  
12 of state license under which the same is operated (which  
13 said license number when changed by the issuance of a  
14 new state license shall be indicated upon said bond by the  
15 attachment of a rider thereto) said bond shall provide that  
16 the company issuing the same shall be directly liable for  
17 and shall pay all damages not exceeding twenty five hun-  
18 dred dollars to any one person, that may be recovered  
19 against the operator or owner of the vehicle described  
20 therein by reason of the negligent use and operation of such  
21 vehicle.

b. The bond provided for by this section shall be deemed  
2 to include any policy of insurance or other contract in  
3 writing by which any surety or insurance company au-  
4 thorized to execute such contract shall assume the liability  
5 prescribed by this section.

c. If any such bond so filed shall become inoperative  
2 such vehicle shall not be operated until a bond meeting the  
3 requirements of this section shall have been filed.

Sect. 3. a. Such bond shall be accompanied by an ap-  
2 plication for the acceptance thereof by the Public Utilities  
3 Commission which application shall state the name and  
4 residence of the applicant, the general route, on the terri-  
5 tory, over which it is proposed to operate the motor vehicle  
6 described in such bond, the proposed hours of such oper-  
7 ation and a schedule of rates or fares to be charged for  
8 carriage therein.

b. If the Public Utilities Commission determines that such  
2 bond complies with the provisions of Sec. 2 and that the  
3 rates specified in the application accompanying the same  
4 are reasonable for such character, and that the proposed  
5 general route or territory to be covered, and the hours of  
6 such operation are reasonably adapted to the accommoda-  
7 tion of the public, it shall, regardless of any other service  
8 now furnished, accept such bond and shall thereupon issue  
9 a certificate setting forth the fact that the applicant has in  
10 respect to the vehicle described therein complied with  
11 the provisions of Sec. 2 and 3. All such bonds shall upon

12 acceptance be numbered serially and such certificates shall  
13 be numbered in like series.

Sect. 4. It shall be the duty of every person, firm or  
2 corporation to plainly mark in a permanent manner each  
3 vehicle covered by any such bond by painting or securely  
4 fastening in a conspicuous place upon the sides of such  
5 vehicle in letters not less than two inches in height and  
6 the lines of which shall not be less than one-quarter inch  
7 in width the words "bonded carrier" followed by the number  
8 of the bond covering the same so that all vehicles claimed  
9 to be operated under the provisions of these statutes may  
10 be readily identified.

Sect. 5. Any person, firm or corporation operating any  
2 motor vehicle described in section one who shall fail to  
3 comply with the provisions of section two, and section  
4 three, and section four, shall transport in any such vehicle  
5 a larger number of passengers than the number specified in  
6 such bond as the carrying capacity of such vehicle, shall  
7 charge a rate of fare other than that specified in the appli-  
8 cation accompanying such bond, or shall fail to operate such  
9 vehicle upon the general route, or within the territory, and  
10 during the hours set forth in such application, shall be  
11 deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall  
12 be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred  
13 dollars for each offense and in default thereof may be com-  
14 mitted to the county jail for not less than ten nor more than  
15 ninety days.