

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 74

In Senate, Feb. 1, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Public Utilities and one thousand copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

Presented by Mr. Lord of York.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT requiring the placing of warning signs at grade crossings, cross and entering roads and dangerous curves.

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

Section 1. Within six months from the passage of this
2 act there shall be placed and thereafterward maintained
3 warning signs on every highway or other way within the
4 state approaching a crossing at grade of such highway or
5 other way and the tracks of a railroad. Such signs shall
6 be placed on each side of such crossing at such distances
7 as shall be determined upon by the Public Utilities Com-

8 mission and the State Highway Commission which two
9 commissions are hereby required and vested with the au-
10 thority of causing to be located and maintained such warn-
11 ing signs; provided, however, that in the compact parts of
12 cities and towns where the conditions mentioned in Revised
13 Statutes Chapter 57, Section 79, exist and are observed and
14 at all other places where in the judgment of the two above
15 named commissions such signs are unnecessary, no such
16 warning signs need be erected.

Sect. 2. Such signs shall consist of a disc twenty-four
2 (24) inches in diameter, the field thereof to be white with
3 a black border line one (1) inch wide, and with black per-
4 pendicular and horizontal cross lines two and one-half ($2\frac{1}{2}$)
5 inches wide; the reverse side of such disc to be colored
6 black. In each of the upper quarterings shall appear in
7 black the letter "R" five (5) inches high, three and one-
8 quarter ($3\frac{1}{4}$) inches wide, lines one (1) inch stroke. Such
9 signs shall be placed in conspicuous locations beside the
10 highway at a distance of not less than three hundred (300)
11 feet from the nearest rail of such crossing unless local con-
12 ditions in the judgment of the two commissions named in
13 Section 1 hereof make it reasonable to cause such sign to
14 be located at a lesser distance from said nearest rail.

Sect. 3. The person controlling the movement of any self-
2 propelled vehicle upon passing any such warning sign lo-
3 cated more than one hundred (100) feet from a grade
4 crossing shall reduce the speed of such vehicle so that with-
5 in a distance of one hundred (100) feet from the nearest

6 rail of such crossing such vehicle shall not proceed at a
7 greater speed than ten miles per hour upon or over such
8 crossing. This provision shall be deemed to require a pre-
9 caution in addition to those now prescribed by law or other-
10 wise required with reference to the duties of persons on
11 a highway approaching a railroad grade crossing.

Sect. 4. Any person violating the foregoing section upon
2 conviction thereof shall be fined not less than \$10.00 and
3 jurisdiction over such offences is hereby conferred upon
4 municipal and police courts and trial justices within the
5 state.

Sect. 5. At conspicuous places beside each highway or
2 other way in the state where any such way crosses another
3 way, and where another way enters any such way, and
4 where a curve on any such way obscures the clear view
5 of a traveller thereon for a distance of more than one hun-
6 dred and fifty (150) feet ahead, there shall be placed warn-
7 ing signs upon the first line of which in letters three and
8 one-quarter ($3\frac{1}{4}$) inches high, shall appear the words,
9 "Dangerous Crossing," or "Dangerous Curve," or "Enter-
10 ing Road" as the existing facts may warrant; and on the
11 second line of which signs, in letters five (5) inches high,
12 shall appear the figures and words "150 Feet Ahead." Each
13 such sign shall be placed as nearly as possible (and not less
14 than) 150 feet from such cross road, entering road or
15 curve. Such warning signs shall be located and maintained
16 under the direction of the State Highway Commission; pro-

17 vided that in the compact parts of cities and towns, and
18 any other places where the circumstances are not sufficient
19 to warrant the placing of such signs, no such warning signs
20 need be erected.

Sect. 6. Each such warning sign shall be located and
2 placed on or before 1917.

Sect. 7. The expense of the erection and maintenance of
2 each warning sign mentioned in any section hereof shall be
3 borne by the state, bills therefor to be approved by the Gov-
4 ernor and Council, and paid out of any funds not other-
5 wise appropriated.

Sect. 8. Any person who unlawfully removes, throws
2 down, injures or defaces any such warning sign, shall be
3 fined therefor not less than ten dollars; and jurisdiction
4 over such offenses is hereby conferred on each trial justice
5 and municipal or police court judge recorder and clerk, in
6 the state.