

EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 218

House of Representatives, February 28, 1923.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Littlefield of Kennebunk, by request.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE

AN ACT to Amend Sections Twenty, Thirty, Thirty-one, Thirty-eight, Forty-one, Forty-three, Forty-seven, Fifty, Fiftythree, Seventy-two, Seventy-three, Seventy-four and Eightytwo of Chapter Two Hundred and Eleven of the Public Laws of Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-one, Entitled "An Act Relative to Motor Vehicles, and the Law of the Road, and to Revise and Amend Chapter Twenty-six of the Revised Statutes and Acts Amendatory Thereof and Additional Thereto."

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:Section 1. Section twenty of chapter two hundred and2 eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-

3 one is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence of 4 said section and by substituting therefor the following: 5 'Any order formulated under the provisions of this section 6 shall be in full force and effect when published three times 7 in at least two newspapers published in a town near where 8 such ways or bridges are located. When any order is 9 formulated by the state highway commission which affects 10 ways or bridges in all of the counties of the state said order 11 shall be in effect when published at least three times in 12 each daily newspaper published in the state. Said orders 13 may be further promulgated in any manner which the offi-14 cials having jurisdiction over said ways may determine.' 15 Said section when so amended will read as follows:

'Sect. 20. The state highway commission shall designate 2 state and state aid highways and improved third class high-3 ways and bridges, or sections thereof, over which, during 4 such periods of each year as may be determined by the com-5 mission, it shall be unlawful for any motor truck or other 6 vehicle or team to pass having a weight, with or without 7 load, exceeding that prescribed by said commission; or to 8 pass except according to restrictions as to weight, speed, 9 operation and equipment prescribed by the commission and 10 pursuant to its written license. County commissioners and 11 municipal officers may make similar designations of any 12 other ways and bridges within their respective jurisdictions 13 and impose similar restrictions upon vehicles passing over 14 the same. Any order formulated under the provisions of

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15 this section shall be in full force and effect when published 16 three times in at least two newspapers published in a town 17 near where such ways or bridges are located. When any 18 order is formulated by the state highway commission which 19 affects ways or bridges in all of the counties of the state 20 said order shall be in effect when published at least three 21 times in each daily newspaper published in the state. Said 22 orders may be further promulgated in any manner which 23 the officials having jurisdiction over said ways may deter-24 mine.'

Sect. 2. Section thirty of chapter two hundred and eleven 2 of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-one is 3 hereby amended by adding at the end of said section the 4 following sentence: "The oath required by this section may 5 be administered by any person qualified to administer oaths 6 and also by any duly commissioned state highway police." 7 Said section when so amended will read as follows:

'Sect. 30. Applications to operate motor vehicles shall 2 be made under oath and may be presented by mail or other-3 wise to the secretary, upon blanks prepared under his au-4 thority, and which shall therein call for specific answers 5 to questions of a character designed to show the experience 6 and competency of the applicant to operate a motor vehicle; 7 a fee of two dollars shall accompany the application. Be-8 fore the license is granted an applicant may be required to 9 pass such examination by actual demonstration or other-10 wise as to his qualifications to operate a motor vehicle as

11 the secretary shall require; and no license shall be issued 12 until the secretary is satisfied that the applicant is a proper 13 person to receive it; no license shall be issued to any person 14 under fifteen years of age. A record of all applications 15 for license and of all licenses issued shall be kept by the 16 secretary. Each license shall state the name, age, place 17 of residence of the licensee and the distinguishing numbers 18 or marks assigned to him and may contain a brief descrip-19 tion of the licensee for the purpose of identification and 20 such other information as the secretary shall deem neces-21 sary. A person to whom a license to operate a motor vehicle 22 has been issued, unless such license contains a special limita-23 tion or restriction, may operate any registered motor vehicle. 24 Every licensee shall endorse his usual signature upon the 25 margin of the license before using it, and no license shall 26 be valid until so endorsed. The oath required by this section 27 may be administered by any person qualified to administer 28 oaths and also by any duly commissioned state highway 29 police.'

Sect. 3. Section thirty-one of chapter two hundred and 2 eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-3 one is hereby amended by striking out the words "any per-4 son employed for the purpose of operating a motor vehicle, 5 and whose principal duty is to operate such vehicle" in the 6 first, second and third lines of the sixth paragraph and by 7 substituting in place thereof the following words: 'any per-8 son who operates a motor vehicle not his own, and who 9 directly or indirectly receives any pay or compensation what10 soever for any work or services in connection therewith,'
11 so that said paragraph, when so amended, will read as fol12 lows:

'Sect. 31. The word "chauffeur" as herein used shall mean 2 any person who operates a motor vehicle not his own, and 3 who directly or indirectly receives any pay or compensation 4 whatsoever for any work or services in connection there-5 with; but as used elsewhere generally in this act with respect 6 to the use and operation of motor vehicles the word "op-7 erator" and "driver" shall include the word "chauffeur".'

Sect. 4. Section thirty-eight of chapter two hundred and '2 eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-3 one is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the fol-4 lowing paragraph: 'Whenever the commission shall receive 5 notice from the motor vehicle department of another state 6 or country to the effect that the right of a resident of this 7 state to operate motor vehicles on the highways of said 8 state or country, has been suspended or revoked, the com-9 mission may without further hearing take similar action 10 as to the revocation or suspension of the right of said resi-11 dent to operate motor vehicles on the highways of this state. 12 Whenever the commission shall receive an attested abstract 13 of the court record showing that a resident of this state 14 has been convicted of operating a motor vehicle on the 15 highways of another state or country while he was under 16 the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs it may without

17 further hearing revoke the license or right of said resident18 to operate motor vehicles on the highways of this state.'19 Said section when so amended will read as follows:

'Sect. 38. The commission may suspend or revoke the 2 right of any non-resident operator to operate in this state 3 and may suspend or revoke the license or right of any non-4 resident owner to operate or have operated in this state any 5 vehicle for the same causes and under the same conditions 6 and in the same manner that it could take such action re-7 garding any resident owner or operator or vehicle owned 8 in this state; and thereupon the right of such non-resident 9 owner or operator to operate or have operated any such 10 vehicle in this state shall terminate and he shall be subject 11 to the same penalties as any resident owner or operator 12 who operates without license or registration.

'Whenever the commission or secretary is notified by the 2 licensing or registration department of another state or 3 country that any licensee or registrant resident therein has 4 had his license or registration suspended, revoked or an-5 nulled, the commission may forthwith suspend, revoke or 6 terminate any right, license, or registration granted to such 7 person in this state.

'Whenever the commission shall receive notice from the 2 motor vehicle department of another state or country to 3 the effect that the right of a resident of this state to operate 4 motor vehicles on the highways of said state or country has 5 been suspended or revoked, the commission may without

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6 further hearing take similar action as to the revocation or 7 suspension of the right of said resident to operate motor 8 vehicles on the highways of this state. Whenever the com-9 mission shall receive an attested abstract of the court record 10 showing that a resident of this state has been convicted of 11 operating a motor vehicle on the highways of another state 12 or country while he was under the influence of intoxicating 13 liquor or drugs, it may without further hearing revoke the 14 license or right of said resident to operate motor vehicles 15 on the highways of this state.'

Sect. 5. Section forty-one of chapter two hundred and 2 eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-3 one is hereby amended by adding to said section the fol-4 lowing: 'The commission may, in its discretion, and with-5 out further hearing, suspend or revoke the license to oper-6 ate motor vehicles or may annul the certificate of registra-7 tion issued to any such person, in accordance with said 8 recommendation. In case no such license or certificate of 9 registration has been issued to such person the commission 10 may request the secretary not to issue a license or certifi-11 cate of registration to said person, and upon receipt of said 12 request from the commission the secretary shall not issue 13 said license or certificate of registration.' Said section when 14 so amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 41. Every court and trial justice in every case 2 wherein a person is convicted of the violation of any statute 3 relative to motor vehicles or to the operation of any vehicle

4 shall forthwith transmit to the commission an abstract duly 5 certified, setting forth therein the names of the parties, the 6 nature of the offense, the date of hearing, the plea, the 7 judgment and the result; and they shall be open to public 8 inspection during reasonable hours. Said magistrates may 9 make such recommendations to the commission as to sus-10 pension or revocation of licenses and certificates of regis-11 tration of respondents as they deem to be in furtherance of 12 justice. The commission may in its discretion, and without 13 further hearing suspend or revoke the license to operate 14 motor vehicles or may annul the certificate of registration 15 issued to any such person, in accordance with said recom-16 mendation. In case no such license or certificate of regis-17 tration has been issued to such person the commission may 18 request the secretary not to issue a license or certificate of 19 registration to said person, and upon receipt of said request 20 from the commission the secretary shall not issue said li-21 cense or certificate of registration.'

Sect. 6. Section forty-three of chapter two hundred and 2 eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-3 one is hereby amended by striking out the words "The appli-4 cant shall state in his application, the kind of lens used in 5 the headlights upon his motor vehicle and shall specify 6 whether he has complied with the rules and regulations of 7 the commission, framed, published and in effect," in the 8 thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth lines and by 9 substituting in place thereof the following words: "The ap10 plicant shall state in his application whether or not the 11 headlights on said vehicle conform to the provisions of this 12 act and to the rules and regulations of the commission 13 formulated and promulgated under authority thereof.' Said 14 section is further amended by adding at the end of said 15 section the following sentence: 'The oath required by this 16 section may be administered by any person qualified to ad-17 minister oaths and also by any duly commissioned state 18 highway police.' Said section, when so amended, will read 19 as follows:

'Sect. 43. No person shall operate any motor vehicle or 2 trailer, nor shall the owner or custodian of such vehicle 3 permit the same to be operated, or remain upon, any way 4 unless the same is registered and equipped in accordance 5 with the provisions of this act. Application for such reg-6 istration may be made by mail or otherwise to the secretary 7 upon blanks prepared under his authority. The application 8 shall be under oath and, in addition to such other particuo lars as may be required by the secretary, contain a state-10 ment of the name, place of residence and address of the 11 applicant, with a brief description of the vehicle, including 12 the name of its maker, the number, if any affixed by the 13 maker, the character of the motive power and the amount 14 of such power, stated in figures of horse power, and the 15 actual weight of the vehicle; and its loading capacity, if 16 intended for commercial use. The applicant shall state in 17 his application whether or not the headlights on said vehicle

18 conform to the provisions of this act and to the rules and 19 regulations of the commission formulated and promulgated 20 under authority thereof. In case said applicant has not 21 given satisfactory answers, the secretary shall refuse to reg-22 ister such vehicle, or issue a license for its operation. The 23 oath required by this section may be administered by any 24 person qualified to administer oaths and also by any duly 25 commissioned state highway police.'

Sect. 7. Section forty-seven of chapter two hundred and 2 eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-3 one is hereby amended by striking out the last paragraph 4 of sub section (a) and by substituting in place thereof the 5 following: 'Motor vehicles used for the conveyance of 6 passengers from whom any pay or compensation whatso-7 ever is received, either directly or indirectly, shall pay 8 double the above fee.' Said section forty-seven is further 9 amended by striking out the words "Tractors used for agri-10 cultural purposes or not customarily used on public ways, 11 shall pay one-tenth of the above rates," in the second para-12 graph of sub section (b) and by substituting in place thereof 13 the following words: 'Tractors used for agricultural or 14 other purposes which are not customarily used on public 15 ways, shall pay one-tenth of the above rates.' Said section 16 is further amended by striking out the words "Tractors 17 not used for hauling or carrying loads on the highways 18 shall be exempt from registration and license." Said sec-19 tion when so amended will read as follows:

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'Sect. 47. The annual fees for the registration and li-2 censing of vehicles shall be in accordance with the following 3 schedule, and shall accompany the application for registra-4 tion.

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'b. Tractors.

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Equipped with	Per	H. P.	lbs. wgt.
Pneumatic tires	.25	cents	25 cents
Solid rubber tires	.25	cents	50 cents
Iron, steel or other hard tires	.25	cents	80 cents

"Tractors used for agricultural or other purposes which 2 are not customarily used on public ways, shall pay one-3 tenth of the above rates; caterpillar tractors, so-called, ex-4 cept as above provided, shall pay a registration fee of fifteen 5 dollars.

'c. Trailers.

Pe	r 100 lbs.
gr	oss weight
0	f vehicle
Equipped with	and load
Pneumatic tires	0
Solid tires	•
Iron, steel or other hard tires	75 cents
d. Motorcycles	\$5.00 each
e. Motorcycle sidecars	\$5.00 each

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'In computations under this section minor fractions of 2 horse power and weight shall carry the lower rating, and 3 major fractions shall carry the next higher rating.

'Horse power specified in this act shall be based on the 2 "A.L.A.M." standard, so-called.

"Steam Vehicles." In the computation of fees for all vehicles propelled by steam, the horsepower rating shall be based on the system of rating adopted by the United States Government.

"Electric Vehicles." For vehicles propelled by electricity2 the rating shall be the normal horsepower designated by the3 manufacturers of the electric motor or motors in the vehicle.

'In the computation of fees based on gross weight, said 2 gross weight, in the case of freight or merchandise vehicles, 3 shall be the actual weight of the vehicle in pounds plus the 4 manufacturers' rated load capacity, and in the case of 5 passenger vehicles shall be the actual weight of the vehicles. 6 In no case shall the registration fee be less than ten dollars.

'On any application for registration applied for by an 2 owner resident of this state, of a motor vehicle or trailer, 3 not including a log hauler, or traction engine, during the 4 period between the first day of October and the thirty-first 5 day of December, one-half the registration fee shall be 6 charged. The secretary upon granting the application shall

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7 register in a book or upon suitable index cards to be kept 8 for the purpose, the vehicle described in the application, 9 giving to its owner a distinguishing number or other mark, 10 and shall thereupon issue a certificate of registration which 11 shall contain the name, place of residence and address of 12 the owner.'

Sect. 8. Section fifty of chapter two hundred and eleven 2 of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-one is 3 hereby amended by striking out the figure "20" in the tenth 4 line and by substituting in lieu thereof, the figure "25." Said 5 section, when so amended, will read as follows:

'Sect. 50. With each application for registration of a mo-2 tor truck shall be deposited an annual registration fee grad-3 uated as follows when equipped with pneumatic tires: For trucks with a rated carrying capacity of one

thousand pounds or less	\$10.00
For trucks having a rated carrying capacity of over	
one thousand pounds and not over one ton	\$15.00
For trucks having a rated carrying capacity of over	
one ton and not over two tons	\$25.00
For trucks having a rated carrying capacity of over	
two tons and not over three tons	\$55.00
For trucks having a rated carrying capacity of over	
three tons and not over four tons	\$80.00
For trucks having a rated carrying capacity of over	
four tons	\$110.00

'Provided, however, that every such vehicle equipped with 2 two or more solid tires shall pay an additional fee of thirty-3 three and one-third per cent more than any such vehicle 4 would be hereby required to pay if equipped with pneu-5 matic tires; provided further, however, that any motor ve-6 hicle with a rated carrying capacity of over five tons may be 7 registered and operated if such motor vehicle is owned and 8 registered on the date of the approval of this act. But no 9 vehicle shall be operated on ways or bridges which, either 10 loaded or without load exceeds the limits prescribed in sec-11 tion forty-nine, or is contrary to the provisions of any other 12 section of this act, or any other statute pertaining thereto.'

Sect. 9. Section fifty-three of chapter two hundred and 2 eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-3 one is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence of 4 said section, which is as follows: "No motor truck, tractor 5 or trailer registered under this section shall be used for 6 other than demonstration or emergency purposes," and by 7 substituting in place thereof the following words: 'No mo-8 tor truck, tractor or trailer registered under the provisions 9 of this section shall be used for any other purpose except 10 that which pertains solely to the business as manufacturer 11 or dealer in motor vehicles of the registrant.' Said section 12 when so amended, will read as follows:

'Sect. 53. Every manufacturer or dealer in motor vehicles 2 or trailers, may, instead of registering each vehicle

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3 owned or controlled by him, make application under oath 4 upon a blank provided by the secretary for a general dis-5 tinguishing number, color or mark. The secretary may, if 6 satisfied with the facts stated in the application, grant the 7 application and issue to the applicant a certificate of regis-8 tration containing the name, place of residence and address 9 of the applicant and the general distinguishing number, color 10 or mark assigned to him and made in such form as the 11 secretary may determine; and all vehicles owned or con-12 trolled by such manufacturer or dealer shall be regarded 13 as registered under such general distinguishing number, 14 color or mark until sold, exchanged, or operated for hire. 15 The annual fee for every such certificate of registration 16 shall be thirty dollars. The secretary shall furnish the man-17 ufacturer or dealer with three pairs of registration num-18 ber plates free of cost; and there may be issued to any 10 such applicant two similar pairs of plates, in addition to 20 the three pairs so issued, upon payment of ten dollars for 21 each such additional pair, and upon payment of five dollars 22 per pair additional plates shall be furnished. Extra registra-23 tion plates shall be furnished to replace lost or mutilated 24 plates for seventy-five cents each. Single plates shall be fur-25 nished for trailers. On applications for registration or for 26 additional plates applied for by said manufacturers or deal-27 ers during the period between the first day of October and 28 the thirty-first day of December in any year, one-half of 20 the registration fee shall be charged. No motor truck,

30 tractor or trailer registered under the provisions of this 31 section shall be used for any other purpose except that 32 which pertains solely to the business as manufacturer or 33 dealer in motor vehicles of the registrant.'

Section seventy-two of chapter two hundred Sect. 10. 2 and eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and 3 twenty-one as amended by chapter fourteen of the public 4 laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-three, is hereby fur-5 ther amended by adding thereto the following: 'The oper-6 ator's license of any person convicted of the violation of 7 any provision of this section may be suspended or revoked 8 by the commission without further hearing, upon the reo ceipt of a certified abstract of the court record. If any 10 person, who is convicted of a violation of any of the pro-II visions of this section, has no license to operate motor ve-12 hicles on the ways of this state, the secretary if so requested 13 by the commission, shall refuse to issue a license to said 14 person.' Said section when so amended will read as fol-15 lows:

'Sect. 72. Whoever operates a motor vehicle upon any 2 way recklessly, so that lives or safety of the public are in 3 danger, or upon a bet, wager or race, or for the purpose 4 of making a record, thereby violating the speed regulations, 5 or whoever goes away without stopping and making him-6 self known after causing injury to any person or property, 7 or uses a motor vehicle without authority from its owner.

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8 shall be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred 9 dollars, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three 10 months, or by both fine and imprisonment; and if any per-11 son be convicted the second time for a violation of this 12 section, he shall be punished by a fine of not less than two 13 hundred dollars and not more than five hundred dollars, 14 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. 15 The operator's license of any person convicted of the vio-16 lation of any provision of this section may be suspended 17 or revoked by the commission without further hearing, upon 18 the receipt of a certified abstract of the court record. If 10 any person, who is convicted of a violation of any of the 20 provisions of this section, has no license to operate motor 21 vehicles on the ways of this state, the secretary if so re-22 quested by the commission, shall refuse to issue a license 23 to said person.'

Sect. 11. Section seventy-three of chapter two hundred 2 and eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and 3 twenty-one is hereby amended by striking out the words 4 "No person whose license to operate a motor vehicle has 5 been revoked upon conviction of violating sections seventy-6 two, seventy-three and seventy-four of this act, shall again 7 be licensed or permitted to operate a motor vehicle in this 8 state for three years," and by inserting in place thereof the 9 following: 'No person who has been convicted of violating 10 the provisions of section seventy-four of this act shall again 11 be licensed or permitted to operate a motor vehicle in this

12 state for a period of three years; nor shall the secretary, 13 if requested not to do so by the commission, issue a license 14 to any person who has been convicted of violating any of 15 the provisions of section seventy-two, during such period 16 as the commission shall determine, said period not to ex-17 ceed three years.' Said section when amended shall read 18 as follows:

'Sect. 73. If any motor vehicle is so driven in a reckless 2 manner or by a person apparently under the influence of 3 intoxicating liquor or drugs, it shall be the duty of every 4 officer who is charged with the enforcement of law and of 5 every citizen to forthwith report the same to the commis-6 sion giving the register number of the vehicle, the state 7 registering the same, and the name and residence of the 8 operator or owner, if known. Upon receipt of such com-9 plaint the commission shall forthwith investigate the case 10 and may suspend or revoke the license of such operator, or II if a non-resident, his right to operate in this state, and 12 annul the registration of any vehicle so operated, for such 13 time as it shall deem advisable. No person who has been 14 convicted of violating the provisions of sections seventy-15 four of this act, shall again be licensed or permitted to 16 operate a motor vehicle in this state for a period of three 17 years; nor shall the secretary, if requested not to do so, 18 by the commission, issue a license to any person who has 19 been convicted of violating any of the provisions of section 20 seventy-two, during such period as the commission shall

21 determine, said period not to exceed three years; provided, 22 however, that after one year if the commission on petition 23 and after hearing shall determine that public safety will 24 not be endangered by issuing a new license or permit, with 25 or without conditions attached thereto, a new license or 26 permit may then be so issued. If any person convicted 27 of any violation of the provisions of this act shall appeal 28 from the judgment and sentence of the trial court, his 29 license and right to operate a motor vehicle in this state 30 shall be suspended during the time his appeal is pending 31 in the appellate court, unless the trial court shall other-32 wise order, or unless the commission, after a hearing, 33 shall restore the license or permit pending decision on 34 the appeal.'

Sect. 12. Section seventy-four of chapter two hundred 2 and eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and 3 twenty-one is hereby amended by inserting between the 4 words "by" and "imprisonment" in the tenth line the words 5 'a fine of not less than three hundred dollars and by.' Said 6 section when so amended will read as follows:

'Sect. 74. No person shall operate or attempt to operate a 2 motor vehicle when intoxicated or at all under the influence 3 of intoxicating liquor or drugs. Whoever violates the 4 foregoing provision shall be punished upon conviction by a 5 fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one 6 thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not less than thirty 7 days nor more than one year, or by both fine and imprison-

8 ment. The license of any person convicted of violating the 9 provisions of this section shall be immediately revoked by 10 the commission upon receipt of an attested copy of the 11 court records, without further hearing. Any person con-12 victed of a second or subsequent offense shall be punished 13 by a fine of not less than three hundred dollars and by 14 imprisonment for not less than three months nor more 15 than one year and his license to operate shall be revoked 16 by the commission. A copy of section seventy-two, 17 seventy-three and seventy-four shall be printed on every 18 operator's license.'

Sect. 13. Section eighty-two of chapter two hundred and 2 eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-3 one is hereby repealed and the following section is enacted 4 in place thereof:

'Sect. 82. Whoever shall operate a motor vehicle after his 2 license to operate has been suspended or revoked, or who-3 ever shall operate, or as owner or custodian, shall permit 4 any other person to operate a motor vehicle while the 5 certificate of registration of such vehicle is suspended or 6 after it has been annulled, shall upon conviction, be 7 punished by a fine of not less than seventy-five dollars or 8 by imprisonment for not less than thirty days, or by both 9 fine and imprisonment; and if any person is convicted a 10 second time of a violation of the above provision he shall 11 be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred dollars 12 and by imprisonment for not less than three months or

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13 more than one year. No person shall attach or permit to 14 be attached to a vehicle a number plate assigned to another 15 vehicle, or obscure or permit to be obscured the figures of 16 any number plate attached to any vehicle, or fail to proper-17 ly display on a vehicle the number plates and registration 18 number duly issued therefor.'

Sect. 14. Section eight of this act shall become operative 2 January first, 1924.