

CHAPTER 170.

UNIFORM GAUGE FOR RAILROADS.

S. F. 27.

AN ACT to require all railroad companies owning railroads in the state of Iowa, of less than four (4) feet, eight and one half (8½) inches gauge, to adopt such gauge within such reasonable time as may be fixed by the railroad commissioners. [Additional to chapter five (5) of title ten (X) of the code, relating to the construction and operation of railways.]

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. **Railroad commissioners—inspection—order.** That the railroad commissioners of Iowa are charged with the duty, within one year from the passage of this act, to inspect and examine all railroad lines or branches that are of a gauge less than four (4) feet eight and one-half (8½) inches in width of track, and if, considering the interest of the public and the railroad traffic tributary to that line or branch road, and the physical or natural difficulties to be encountered and the expense that would be involved or incurred in changing the track to a gauge of four (4) feet eight and one-half (8½) inches in width, and making it practical to operate the said line or branch road on that gauge, it appears to be reasonable and just to require the railway company which is the owner to do so, then said commissioners shall enter an order fixing a reasonable time within which said railroad track is to be changed to a gauge of four (4) feet eight and one-half (8½) inches in width.

SEC. 2. **Duties.** It shall be the duty of the railroad commissioners, within one (1) year after the passage of this act, to examine all the railroads in this state, now in existence, that are less than four (4) feet eight and one half (8½) inches gauge, and if they find that it is feasible or in their judgment necessary and reasonable to change the gauge of any such railroad to four (4) feet eight and one half (8½) inches, they shall make their order in writing, fixing such reasonable time within which such gauge shall be changed to that width. In making such order, said commissioners shall take into consideration the amount and probable life of the rolling stock of such narrow gauged road, and all other facts bearing on the reasonableness of the time to be allowed to make such change of gauge.

Approved April 9 A. D. 1913.