

Placed on Calendar.
March 22, 1935.

House File No. 429²
By MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRANSPORTATION ✓
COMMITTEE.

A BILL FOR

Motor Vehicle

An Act to repeal sections five thousand forty-three (5043), five thousand forty-four (5044), five thousand forty-four-d-one (5044-d1), five thousand forty-four-d two (5044-d2), five thousand forty-five (5045), five thousand forty-five-d one (5045-d1), five thousand forty-six (5046), five thousand forty-seven (5047), five thousand forty-eight (5048), five thousand forty-nine (5049), five thousand fifty (5050), five thousand fifty-one (5051), five thousand fifty-two (5052), five thousand fifty-three (5053), five thousand fifty-four (5054), five thousand fifty-five (5055), five thousand fifty-five-b one (5055-b1), five thousand fifty-five-b two (5055-b2), five thousand fifty-five-b three (5055-b3), five thousand fifty-five-b four (5055-b4), Code of Iowa, 1931, and to provide provisions relating to lamps and other equipment on vehicles.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 That section five thousand forty-three (5043), five
2 thousand forty-four (5044), five thousand forty-four-d one
3 (5044-d1), five thousand forty-four-d two (5044-d2),
4 five thousand forty-five (5045), five thousand forty-
5 five-d one (5045-d1), five thousand forty-six (5046),
6 five thousand forty-seven (5047), five thousand forty-
7 eight (5048), five thousand forty-nine (5049), five
8 thousand fifty (5050), five thousand fifty-one (5051),
9 five thousand fifty-two (5052), five thousand fifty-three
10 (5053), five thousand fifty-four (5054), five thousand
11 fifty-five (5055), five thousand fifty-five-b one

12 (5055-b1), five thousand fifty-five-b two (5055-b2),
13 five thousand fifty-five-b three (5055-b3), five
14 thousand fifty-five-b four (5055-b4), Code of Iowa, 1931,
15 be repealed and the following enacted in lieu thereof:

1 Section 1. Definition of words and phrases. The
2 following words and phrases when used in this act shall, for
3 the purpose of this act, have the meanings respectively
4 ascribed to them as follows:

5 (a) Vehicle. Every device in, upon, or by which any
6 person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a
7 highway, except devices moved by human power or used ex-
8 clusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

9 (b) Motor Vehicle. Every vehicle which is self-pro-
10 pelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power
11 obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon
12 rails.

13 (c) Motorcycle. Every motor vehicle having a saddle for
14 the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than
15 three wheels in contact with the ground but excluding a
16 tractor.

17 (d) Authorized emergency vehicle. Vehicles of the fire
18 department (fire patrol), police vehicles, and such ambulances
19 and emergency vehicles of municipal departments or public
20 service corporations as are designated or authorized by the
21 (secretary of state) or the (chief of police of an incorporated
22 city).

23 (e) School bus. Every motor vehicle owned by a public
24 or governmental agency and operated for the transportation of
25 children to or from school or privately owned and operated for
26 compensation for the transportation of children to or from
27 school.

28 (f) Truck tractor. Every motor vehicle designed and used
29 primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as
30 to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the
31 vehicle and load so drawn.

32 (g) Farm tractor. Every motor vehicle designed and
33 used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing
34 machines, and other implements of husbandry.

35 (h) Road tractor. Every motor vehicle designed and
36 used for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as
37 to carry any load thereon either independently or any part
38 of the weight of a vehicle or load so drawn.

39 (i) Trailer. Every vehicle without motive power designed
40 for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a
41 motor vehicle and so constructed that no part of its weight
42 rests upon the towing vehicle.

43 (j) Semitrailer. Every vehicle without motive power
44 designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn
45 by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its
46 weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by
47 another vehicle.

48 (k) Street or highway. The entire width between property

49 lines of every way or place of whatever nature when any part
50 thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right,
51 for purposes of vehicular traffic.

52 (l) Private road or driveway. Every way or place in
53 private ownership and used for vehicular travel by the owner
54 and those having express or implied permission from the owner
55 but not by other persons.

56 (m) Roadway. That portion of a highway improved, de-
57 signed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

1 Sec. 2. Scope and effect of regulations.

2 (a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to drive or move
3 or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or
4 moved on any highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles
5 which is in such unsafe condition as to endanger any person,
6 or which does not contain those parts or is not at all times
7 equipped with such lamps and other equipment in proper condition
8 and adjustment as required in this article, or which is
9 equipped in any manner in violation of this article, or for
10 any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act
11 required under this article.

12 (b) The provisions of this article with respect to equip-
13 ment on vehicles shall not apply to implements of husbandry,
14 road machinery, road rollers, or farm tractors except as herein
15 made applicable.

1 Sec. 3. When lighted lamps are required.

2 (a) Every vehicle upon a highway within this state at any

3 time from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sun-
4 rise and at any other time where there is not sufficient light
5 to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the
6 highway at a distance of five hundred (500) feet ahead shall
7 display lighted lamps and illuminating devices as herein-
8 after respectively required for different classes of vehicles,
9 subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles as
10 hereinafter stated.

11 (b) Whenever requirement is hereinafter declared as to the
12 distance from which certain lamps and devices shall render
13 object visible or within which such lamps or devices shall be
14 visible, said provisions shall apply during the times stated
15 in subdivision (a) of this section upon a straight level un-
16 lighted highway under normal atmospheric conditions unless a
17 different time or condition is expressly stated.

18 (c) Whenever lamps are required on the front of any vehicle
19 they shall be white or amber unless otherwise stated.

1 Sec. 4. Head lamps on motor vehicles.

2 (a) Every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle shall be
3 equipped with at least two head lamps with at least one on each
4 side of the front of the motor vehicle, which head lamps
5 shall comply with the requirements and limitations set forth
6 in this article.

7 (b) Every motorcycle shall be equipped with at least one
8 and not more than two head lamps which shall comply with the
9 requirements and limitations of this article.

1 Sec. 5. Rear lamps and reflectors.

2 (a) Every motor vehicle and every vehicle which is being
3 drawn at the end of a train of vehicles shall be equipped with
4 a lighted rear lamp, exhibiting a red light plainly visible
5 from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear.

6 (b) Either such rear lamp or a separate lamp shall be so
7 constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the
8 rear registration plate and render it clearly legible from a
9 distance of fifty (50) feet to the rear. When the rear license
10 plate is illuminated by an electric lamp other than the required
11 rear lamp, said two lamps shall be turned on or off only by
12 the same control switch at all times whenever head lamps are
13 lighted.

14 (c) Every motor truck, trailer, or semi-trailer operated
15 on a highway on and after sixty (60) days from the date this
16 act becomes effective shall also carry at the rear, a red
17 reflector meeting the requirements of this section.

18 (d) Whenever a red reflector is required or permitted to
19 be used in substitution of lamps upon a vehicle under any of
20 the provisions of this act, such reflector shall be mounted
21 upon the vehicle at a height not to exceed forty-two (42)
22 inches nor less than twenty-four (24) inches above the ground
23 upon which the vehicle stands, and every such reflector shall
24 be so designed and maintained as to be visible at night from all
25 distances within three hundred (300) feet to fifty (50) feet
26 from such vehicle, except that on a commercial vehicle the

27 reflector shall be visible from all distances within five
28 hundred (500) feet to fifty (50) feet from such vehicle, when
29 directly in front of a motor vehicle displaying lawfully
30 lighted headlamps as provided in section twelve-a (12-a)
31 hereof.

1 Sec. 6. Clearance, identification, and side marker
2 lamps.—Within six (6) months after the effective date of
3 this act every motor vehicle or motor drawn vehicle designed
4 or used for the transportation of property or for the trans-
5 portation of passengers for compensation, except buses
6 operated entirely within municipalities when their interiors
7 are illuminated, shall display lighted lamps at the times
8 mentioned in section one (1) when and as required in this section,
9 except that such lamps may be but are not required to be
10 lighted when any such vehicle is upon a highway which is
11 sufficiently illuminated by street lamps to render any
12 person or vehicle visible at a distance of five hundred (500)
13 feet.

14 (a) Clearance lamps. Every such vehicle having a width
15 at any part in excess of eighty (80) inches shall be equipped
16 with two clearance lamps located on the extreme left side
17 of such vehicle, one located at the front and displaying a
18 green light visible from a distance of five hundred (500)
19 feet to the front of the vehicle and the other located at the
20 rear of the vehicle and displaying a red light visible from
21 a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear of the

22 vehicle, which said rear clearance lamp shall be in addition
23 to the red rear lamp hereinbefore required.

24 (b) Identification lamps, front and rear. Every such
25 vehicle or combination of such vehicles having a length in
26 excess of thirty (30) feet or a width in excess of eighty (80)
27 inches shall be equipped with lamps on the front displaying
28 three (3) green lights and lamps on the rear displaying three
29 (3) red lights and the lights in each such group shall be
30 evenly spaced not less than six (6) nor more than twelve (12)
31 inches apart along a horizontal line near the top of the
32 vehicle and said lights shall be visible from distances of
33 five hundred (500) feet to the front and rear, respectively,
34 of the vehicle, except such lights may take the form of one (1)
35 consecutive light of one (1) continuous light not less than
36 eighteen (18) inches nor more than twenty-four (24) inches
37 long.

38 (c) Side marker lamps. Every such vehicle or combination
39 of such vehicles which exceeds twenty (20) feet in overall
40 length shall be equipped with at least four (4) side marker
41 lamps, one (1) on each side near the front and one (1) on
42 each side near the rear. Said lamps near the front shall
43 display green lights and said lamps near the rear shall display
44 red lights each visible from a distance of five hundred (500)
45 feet to the side of the vehicle on which it is located. If
46 the clearance lamps on the left side of a vehicle as herein-
47 before required display lights visible from a distance of

48 five hundred (500) feet at right angles to the left of the
49 vehicle they shall be deemed to meet the requirements as to
50 left marker lamps in this paragraph. In lieu of such side
51 marker lamps any such vehicle may be equipped with four (4)
52 reflectors, two (2) on each side and otherwise meeting the
53 requirements of this act.

1 Sec. 7. Lamp or flag on projecting load. Whenever
2 the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four (4) feet
3 or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle there shall be
4 displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the times
5 specified in section one (1) hereof, a red light or lantern plainly
6 visible from a distance of at least five hundred (500) feet
7 to the sides and rear. The red light or lantern required under
8 this section shall be in addition to the red rear lights
9 required upon every vehicle. At any other time there shall be
10 displayed at the extreme rear end of such load a red flag or
11 cloth not less than sixteen (16) inches square.

1 Sec. 8. Lamps on parked vehicles. Whenever a vehicle
2 is parked or stopped upon a roadway or shoulder adjacent
3 thereto, whether attended or unattended, during the times
4 mentioned in section one (1), such vehicle shall be equipped with
5 one (1) or more lamps which shall exhibit a white light on
6 the roadway side visible from a distance of five hundred (500)
7 feet to the front of such vehicle and a red light visible
8 from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear, except
9 that local authorities may provide by ordinance or reso-

10 lution that no lights need be displayed upon any such vehicle
11 when stopped or parked in accordance with local parking
12 regulations upon a highway where there is sufficient light to
13 reveal any person or object within a distance of five hundred
14 (500) feet upon such highway. Any lighted headlamps upon a
15 parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.

1 Sec. 9. Vehicle may be left unlighted reasonable time
2 in case of accident. The last preceding section shall not
3 apply when an accident extinguishes said light and renders
4 vehicle incapable of use, and when the person in control of
5 the vehicle erects, at the earliest opportunity after the
6 accident, such proper light at or near the vehicle as will
7 give warning of the presence of said vehicle.

1 Sec. 10. Lamps on bicycles. Every bicycle shall be
2 equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light
3 visible from a distance of at least three hundred (300) feet
4 to the front and with a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red
5 light visible from a distance of three hundred (300) feet
6 to the rear; except that a red reflector meeting the re-
7 quirements of this act may be used in lieu of a rear light.

1 Sec. 11. Lamps on other vehicles and equipment.
2 All vehicles, including animal drawn vehicles and including
3 those referred to in section 2-b not hereinbefore
4 specifically required to be equipped with lamps, shall at the
5 times specified in section one (1) hereof be equipped with at least
6 one lighted lamp, lantern, or a reflector, exhibiting a white

7 light visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to
8 the front of such vehicle and with a lighted lamp, lantern,
9 or a reflector, exhibiting a red light visible from a distance
10 of five hundred (500) feet to the rear.

1 Sec. 12. Spot lamps and auxiliary driving lamps.

2 (a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not to exceed
3 one (1) spot lamp and every lighted spot lamp shall be so aimed
4 and used upon approaching another vehicle that no part of the
5 high-intensity portion of the beam will be directed to the
6 left of the prolongation of the extreme left side of the
7 vehicle nor more than one hundred (100) feet ahead of the
8 vehicle.

1 Sec. 13. Signal lamps and signal devices.

2 (a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped on the rear, and
3 when a signal lamp or device is required under this act shall
4 be equipped, with a signal lamp or signal device which is
5 so constructed and located on the vehicle as to give a signal
6 of intention to stop which shall be substantially red or
7 yellow in color and signals of intention to turn to the
8 right or left, all of which signals shall be plainly visible
9 and understandable in normal sunlight and at night from a
10 distance of one hundred (100) feet to the rear but shall not
11 project a glaring or dazzling light.

12 (b) All mechanical signal devices shall be self-illuminated
13 when in use at the times mentioned in section one (1).

1 Sec. 14. Additional lighting equipment.

2 (a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than

3 two (2) side cowl or fender lamps which shall emit an amber
4 or white light without glare.

5 (b) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than
6 one (1) running board courtesy lamp on each side thereof which
7 shall emit a white or amber light without glare.

1 Sec. 15. Multiple-beam road lighting equipment.

2 Except as hereinafter provided, the headlamps, or the auxiliary
3 driving lamps, or combinations thereof, on motor vehicles
4 shall be so arranged that the driver may select at will between
5 distributions of light projected to different elevations,
6 subject to the following requirements and limitations:

7 (a) There shall be an uppermost distribution of light, or
8 composite beam, so aimed and of such intensity as to reveal
9 persons and vehicles at a distance of at least three hundred
10 fifty (350) feet ahead for all conditions of loading.

11 (b) There shall be a lowermost distribution of light, or
12 composite beam, so aimed that:

13 1. When the vehicle is not loaded, none of the high-intensity
14 portion of the light which is directed to the left of the
15 prolongation of the extreme left side of the vehicle shall at
16 a distance of twenty-five (25) feet ahead, project higher
17 than a level of ten (10) inches below the level of the center
18 of the lamp from which it comes.

19 2. When the vehicle is not loaded, none of the high-intensity
20 portion of the light which is directed to the right of the
21 prolongation of the extreme left side of the vehicle shall,
22 at a distance of twenty-five (25) feet ahead, project higher

23 than a level of five (5) inches below the level of the center
24 of the lamp from which it comes.

25 3. In no event shall any of the high intensity of such
26 lowermost distribution of light or composite beam project
27 higher than a level of forty-two (42) inches above the
28 level on which the vehicle stands at a distance of seventy-
29 five (75) feet ahead.

30 (c) Where one intermediate beam is provided, the beam on
31 the left side of the road shall be in conformity with (b) (1)
32 of this section except when arranged in accordance with the
33 practice specified in (e).

34 (d) All road lighting beams shall be so aimed and of
35 sufficient intensity to reveal a person or vehicle at a
36 distance of at least one hundred (100) feet ahead.

37 (e) All road lighting equipment manufactured and installed
38 on and after January 1, 1936, shall be so arranged that
39 whenever any beam is used which is not in conformity with
40 paragraph (b) (1) of this section, two (2) white or yellow
41 lights, one (1) on each side of the vehicle, visible to an
42 oncoming driver and to the driver of said vehicle shall be
43 lighted, except that other suitable alternate means may be
44 provided for indicating to the driver behind the light when
45 such beams are on. Indicator lights shall not be connected
46 otherwise than as required in this paragraph. Beam indicator
47 lights and front parking lights shall be so connected that
48 neither of said lights shall be lit when a beam is in use which
49 conforms with paragraph (b) (1) of this section.

1 Sec. 16. Use of multiple-beam road lighting equipment.

2 (a) Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a
3 roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto during the times specified
4 in section one (1), the driver shall use a distribution of light
5 or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient in-
6 tensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in
7 advance of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements
8 and limitations.

9 (b) Whenever the driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming
10 vehicle within five hundred (500) feet, such driver shall use
11 a distribution of light or composite beam so aimed that the
12 glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming
13 driver, and in no case shall the high intensity portion which
14 is projected to the left of the prolongation of the extreme
15 left side of the vehicle be aimed higher than the center of
16 the lamp from which it comes at a distance of twenty-five
17 (25) feet ahead, and in no case higher than a level of
18 forty-two (42) inches above the level upon which the vehicle
19 stands at a distance of seventy-five (75) feet ahead. The
20 lowermost distribution of light specified in section twelve (12),
21 paragraph (b), sub-paragraph one (1), shall be deemed to avoid glare
22 at all times regardless of road contour and loading.

1 Sec. 17. Single-beam lighting equipment. Headlamps
2 arranged to provide a single distribution of light not
3 supplemented by auxiliary driving lamps shall be permitted
4 on motor vehicles manufactured and sold prior to one year
5 after the effective date of this act in lieu of multiple-

6 beam road lighting equipment herein specified if the single
7 distribution of light complies with the following requirements
8 and limitations:

9 1. The headlamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle
10 is not loaded none of the high intensity portion of the light
11 shall at a distance of twenty-five (25) feet ahead project
12 higher than a level of five (5) inches below the level of the
13 center of the lamp from which it comes, and in no case higher
14 than forty-two (42) inches above the level on which the vehicle
15 stands at a distance of seventy-five (75) feet ahead.

16 2. The intensity shall be sufficient to reveal persons
17 and vehicles at a distance of at least two hundred (200)
18 feet.

1 Sec. 18. Alternate road lighting equipment. Any
2 motor vehicle may be operated under the conditions specified
3 in section one (1) when equipment with two (2) lighted lamps upon
4 the front thereof capable of revealing persons and objects
5 seventy-five (75) feet ahead in lieu of lamps required in
6 section twelve (12) or section fourteen (14) provided however, that
7 shall it be operated at a speed in excess of twenty (20) ^{at no time}
8 miles per hour.

1 Sec. 19. Number of driving lamps required or permitted.

2 (a) At all times specified in section one (1), at least two (2)
3 lighted lamps shall be displayed, one (1) on each side at
4 the front of every motor vehicle except when such vehicle
5 is parked subject to the regulations governing lights on

6 parked vehicles.

1 Sec. 20. Special restrictions on lamps.

2 (a) Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor
3 vehicle other than headlamps or spot lamp which projects a
4 beam of light of an intensity greater than three hundred (300)
5 candlepower shall be so directed that no part of the beam will
6 strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands
7 at a distance of more than seventy-five (75) feet from the
8 vehicle.

1 (b) No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment
2 upon any highway with any lamp or device thereon displaying
3 a red light visible from directly in front thereof. This
4 section shall not apply to authorized emergency vehicles.

5 (c) Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles,
6 except as a means for indicating a right or left turn.

1 Sec. 21. Failure of lights. The operator of any
2 motor vehicle may proceed toward his destination in a
3 cautious and careful manner at a speed not to exceed
4 fifteen (15) miles per hour in the event of a failure of
5 one (1) or more of his lights to operate, but he shall be
6 deemed guilty of a violation of the foregoing provisions,
7 unless he puts his lights in order at the first reasonable
8 opportunity.

1 Sec. 22. Turning off lights to avoid arrest.

2 It shall be unlawful for any person to turn off or extin-
3 guish any or all of the lights on his motor vehicle for the
4 purpose of avoiding arrest or identification.