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for Cities & Towns, Page 3/31

SENATE FILE 353

By COMMITTEE ON CITIES AND TOWNS

Passed Senate, Date 3-26-71 Passed House, Date 4-2-71

Vote: Ayes 34 Nays 2 Vote: Ayes 84 Nays 7

Approved April 15, 1971

Motion to reconsider filed 4/2, withdrawn 4/5

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to powers of local authorities to designate
2 snow routes and regulate traffic thereon.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
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1 Section 1. Section three hundred twenty-one point two
2 hundred thirty-six (321.236), Code 1971, is amended by add-
3 ing the following new subsection:

4 "Designating highways or portions of highways as snow
5 routes. When conditions of snow or ice exist on the traffic
6 surface of a designated snow route, it is unlawful for the
7 driver of a vehicle to impede or block traffic if the driving
8 wheels of the vehicle are not equipped with snow tires, tire
9 chains or a nonslip differential. 'Snow tires' as used in
10 this subsection means tires designed for use when there are
11 conditions of snow or ice on the highways, and meeting the
12 requirements which shall be promulgated by rule of the com-
13 missioner of public safety.

14 Said rules shall be based on tests of tire tread designs
15 and depth of remaining tread of worn tires which will be ef-
16 fective in moving motor vehicles through snow of up to six
17 inches in depth. Any person charged with impeding or block-
18 ing traffic for lack of snow tires, chains or nonslip differ-
19 ential shall have said charge dismissed upon a showing to
20 the court that his motor vehicle was equipped with a nonslip
21 differential."

22 Sec. 2. Section three hundred twenty-one point two hun-
23 dred thirty-seven (321.237), Code 1971, is amended as follows:

24 321.237 POSTING SIGNS--SNOW REMOVAL. No ordinance or
25 regulation enacted under subsections 4, 5, 6 or 8 of section
26 321.236, or section 1 of this Act, shall be effective until
27 signs, giving notice of such local traffic regulations as
28 specified in the state highway commission manual on uniform
29 traffic control devices, are posted upon or at the entrances
30 to the highway or part thereof affected as may be most ap-
31 propriate and shall be erected at the expense of such munic-
32 ipality.

33 When a city or town has adopted an ordinance as autho-
34 rized in section 1 of this Act or an ordinance which pro-
35 hibits standing or parking of vehicles upon a street or streets

1 during any time when snow-removal operations are in progress
2 and before such operations have resulted in the removal or
3 clearance of snow from such street or streets, signs bear-
4 ~~ing-the-legend-"No-Parking-During-Snow-Removal"~~ as speci-
5 fied in the above manual, posted as hereinabove provided,
6 shall be deemed sufficient notice of the existence of such
7 restrictions.

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EXPLANATION

9 The traffic jams caused by severe weather conditions in
10 the cities of this state necessitate legislation which will
11 help local authorities in moving people about the city,
12 particularly to their homes from the central areas of the
13 city during such conditions. Cities and towns are restricted
14 by section 321.236 from enacting local ordinances which
15 conflict or are inconsistent with state law, and to that
16 extent home rule does not apply to traffic laws. This bill
17 will permit a city to designate certain streets as snow routes.
18 When there are conditions of snow and ice on the snow routes,
19 a person blocking traffic will be guilty of a simple
20 misdemeanor if his vehicle is not equipped with snow tires,
21 tire chains or a nonslip differential.

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