

AUTOMOBILISTS' GUIDE—RULES AND REGULATIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Act to Regulate the Operation of Motor Vehicles on Public Highways

(Approved March 22, 1905. Amended, approved March 23, 1907.)

The People of the State of California, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

**Section 1.** Subdivision 1. The words and phrases used in this act shall, for the purpose of this act, unless the same be contrary to or inconsistent with the context, be construed as follows: (1) "motor vehicle" shall include all vehicles propelled by any power other than muscular power, provided that nothing herein contained shall, except the provisions of subdivisions three, four and five of section three and subdivision one of section four of this act, apply to motor cycles, motor bicycles, traction engines or road rollers; (2) "public highways" shall include any highway, county road, State road, public street, avenue, alley, park, parkway, driveway or public place in any county, or incorporated city and county, city or town; (3) "closely built up" shall mean (a) the territory of any county or incorporated city and county, city or town contiguous to a public highway which is at that point built up with structures devoted to business, (b) the territory of any county or incorporated city and county, city or town contiguous to a public highway not devoted to business, where for not less than one-quarter of a mile the dwelling-houses on such highway average less than one hundred feet apart, provided that the local authorities having charge of such highway shall have placed conspicuously thereon at both ends of such closely built up section signs of sufficient size to be easily readable by a person using the highway, bearing the words "Slow down to \_\_\_\_\_ miles," inserting in the blank space the number of miles to which the speed is to be reduced, and also an arrow pointing in the direction where the speed is to be reduced; (4) "local authorities" shall include all boards of supervisors, trustees or councils, committees and other public officials of counties, or incorporated cities and counties, cities or towns; (5) "chauffeur" shall mean any person operating a motor vehicle as mechanic, employee or for hire.

**Section 2.** Subdivision 1. Every owner of a motor vehicle shall, for every such vehicle owned by him, file in the office of the Secretary of State a statement of his name and address, with a brief description of the vehicle to be registered, including the name of the maker, factory number, style of vehicle and motor power on a blank to be prepared and furnished by such Secretary of State for that purpose. The filing fee shall be two dollars.

**Subdivision 2.** The Secretary of State shall thereupon file such statement in his office, register such motor vehicle in a book or index kept for the purpose, and assign it a distinctive number.

**Subdivision 3.** The Secretary of State shall forthwith on such registration, and without other fee, issue and deliver to the owner of such motor vehicle a seal of aluminum or other suitable metal, which shall be circular in form, approximately two inches in diameter, and have stamped thereon the words, "Registered motor vehicle, No. \_\_\_\_\_, State of California," with the registration number inserted therein, which seal shall thereafter at all times be conspicuously displayed on the motor vehicle to which such number has been assigned.

**Subdivision 4.** If the vehicle has been previously registered, the certificate issued thereon shall be returned to the Secretary of State and in lieu thereof such Secretary shall issue to said owner a registration seal containing the number of such previous registration upon payment of a fee of one dollar. Upon the sale of a motor vehicle, the vendor, except a manufacturer or dealer shall, within ten days, return to the Secretary of State the registration seal affixed to such vehicle.

**Subdivision 5.** Every motor vehicle shall also at all times have the number assigned to it displayed on the back of such vehicle in such a manner as to be plainly visible, the numbers to be in Arabic numerals, black on white foreground, each not less than 3 inches in height, and each stroke to be of a width not less than half an inch, and also as a part of such number of the abbreviated name of the State in black on white ground, such letters to be not less than one inch in height.

**Subdivision 6.** A manufacturer of or dealer in motor vehicles shall register one vehicle of each style or type manufactured or dealt in by him, and be entitled to as many duplicate registration seals for each type or style so manufactured or dealt in as he may desire on payment of an additional fee of fifty cents for each duplicate seal. If a registration seal and the corresponding number shall thereafter be affixed to and displayed on every article of such type or style as in this section provided, while such vehicle is being operated on hire. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to apply to a motor vehicle employed by a manufacturer or dealer for private use or for hire.

**Subdivision 7.** No motor vehicle shall be used or operated upon the public highways after this act takes effect which shall display thereon a registration seal or number belonging to any other vehicle, or a fictitious registration seal or number.

**Subdivision 8.** No motor vehicle shall be used or operated on the public highways after this act takes effect, unless the owner shall have complied in all respects with this section, except that any person purchasing a motor vehicle from the manufacturer, dealer or other person after this act goes into effect shall be allowed to operate such motor vehicle upon the public highways for a period of five days after the purchase and delivery thereof, provided that during such period such motor vehicle shall bear the registration number and seal of the previous owner under which it was operated or might have been operated by him.

**Subdivision 9.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to motor vehicles owned by non-residents of this state and only temporarily within this state, provided the owners thereof have complied with any law requiring the registration of owners of motor vehicles in force in the state, territory or federal district of their residence, and the registration number showing the initial of such state, territory or federal district shall be displayed on such vehicle substantially as in this section provided.

**Section 3.** Subdivision 1. No person shall operate a motor vehicle on a public highway at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper, having regard to the traffic and use of the highway, or so as to endanger the life or limb of any person, or the safety of any property; or in any event on any public highway where the territory contiguous thereto is closely built up, at a greater rate than one mile in six minutes, or elsewhere in any incorporated city and county, city or town at a greater rate than one mile in four minutes, or elsewhere outside of any incorporated city and county, city or town, at a greater rate than one mile in three minutes; subject, however, to the other provisions of this act.