

HOUSE No. 646.

[Bill accompanying the petition of H. E. Warner and others for legislation to provide for the registration of vehicles other than those propelled or drawn by animals or persons, except the cars of railroad and street railway companies. Roads and Bridges. January 31.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Two.

AN ACT

To provide for the Registration of Certain Vehicles.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Any vehicle other than those
2 propelled or drawn by animals or persons, ex-
3 cept the cars of railroad and street railway
4 companies, may be registered as herein pro-
5 vided.

1 SECTION 2. The metropolitan park commis-
2 sion shall furnish blank certificates prepared for
3 showing the description, motive power, capacity
4 for speed, owner and residence of owner of
5 such vehicles, and such certificates when prop-
6 erly filled out and sworn to by such owner may

7 be filed with said commission and shall be num-
8 bered, recorded and indexed in proper books
9 kept by said commission. Such books and cer-
10 tificates shall be open to public inspection at
11 all reasonable times. Copies of such certificates
12 showing the number thereof, duly certified by
13 a member of said commission or by its clerk,
14 shall be furnished by it upon payment of a
15 reasonable fee therefor to be prescribed by said
16 commission, and such copies so certified shall
17 be received as evidence in all courts and pro-
18 ceedings in this Commonwealth.

19 Any vehicle licensed according to rules or
20 regulations of said commission may be regis-
21 tered with the same number as that of such
22 license, and no vehicle shall be registered with
23 the number which is given to any other vehicle
24 either in registration or in license.

1 SECTION 3. Said commission shall furnish
2 to the owner of each vehicle so registered four
3 plates or placards in form to be by it deter-
4 mined, bearing the registered number of such
5 vehicle in such form as may be determined by
6 said commission: *provided, however,* that said
7 numbers shall be in arabic numerals at least
8 four inches in length and plainly distinguish-
9 able. Additional plates or placards shall be
10 furnished by said commission upon payment
11 therefor as may be determined by the com-
12 mission.

13 The fee for such registration shall be

14 dollars, and all fees and payments received by
15 said commission under this act shall be applied
16 by it to the expenses of its office.

17 Any vehicle so registered may be transferred
18 to the name of another owner or may be re-
19 registered with or without a new number in
20 such way and under such conditions as may be
21 prescribed by said commission.

22 Any person in whose name a vehicle is regis-
23 tered may file with said commission a disclaimer
24 of ownership or a notice of transfer of such
25 ownership giving the name and residence of
26 the transferee, which disclaimer or notice shall
27 be noted on the record of original registration
28 and properly indexed.

29 No certificate for registration, disclaimer of
30 ownership or notice of transfer shall be filed
31 or recorded unless sworn to before an officer
32 authorized to administer oaths, and a notice of
33 transfer shall also be signed and sworn to by
34 the transferee.

35 Such original certificate or notice of transfer
36 shall be prima facie evidence that the person
37 so named as owner is in fact the owner of the
38 vehicle so registered except in actions involving
39 the right to possession of such vehicle, but in
40 any case the actual ownership may be shown.

41 The registered owner of any such vehicle
42 shall at all times be presumed to be in control
43 of such vehicle, and any person actually oper-
44 ating the same shall be presumed to be his
45 agent unless the contrary is made to appear.

1 SECTION 4. After two months from the pas-
2 sage of this act no such vehicle shall be
3 operated, propelled or driven on any public
4 street or way in any city or town unless it is
5 registered as above provided and carries in a
6 conspicuous place upon each side and upon the
7 front and rear thereof the registered number in
8 the form prescribed by said commission.

1 SECTION 5. Any person operating, propel-
2 ling or driving such vehicle contrary to the
3 above provision, and the owner of any vehicle
4 so operated, propelled or driven, shall be liable
5 to a fine of not less than ten nor more than one
6 hundred dollars.

1 SECTION 6. Any person swearing to a cer-
2 tificate of registration, disclaimer of ownership
3 or notice of transfer knowing that the same is
4 not true in any material respect shall be guilty
5 of perjury.

1 SECTION 7. It shall be the duty of all
2 sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, police officers and con-
3 stables in their respective counties, cities and
4 towns to enforce the provisions of section four
5 and to arrest any persons operating, propelling
6 or driving a vehicle contrary to the provisions
7 hereof or in charge of a vehicle so being oper-
8 ated, propelled or driven.

1 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon
2 its passage.