

HOUSE No. 546

Bill accompanying the petition of the National Automobile Association relative to the illumination of rear register numbers of automobiles. Roads and Bridges. January 14.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

AN ACT

Relative to the Illumination of Number Plates on Motor Vehicle.

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 five of chapter five hundred and thirty-four
2 of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and nine, as
3 amended by section two of chapter six hundred and
4 five of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and ten, is
5 hereby amended by striking out the words "sixty
6 feet", in the fifteenth line thereof, and inserting in
7 place thereof the words:— not less than thirty feet,—
8 so as to read as follows:— *Section 5.* Every auto-
9 mobile operated in or on any way in the commonwealth
10 shall have its register number displayed conspicuously
11 thereon on the two number plates furnished by the

12 commission, in accordance with the provisions of sections
13 two, three and four, one number plate to be attached
14 at the front and the other at the rear of said vehicle, so
15 that the said number plates and the register number
16 thereon shall be always plainly visible. The bottom of
17 each number plate shall be horizontal, and not less than
18 eight and not more than forty-eight inches from the
19 ground. The said number plates shall be kept clean
20 and the numbers legible, and during the period when
21 the vehicle is required to display lights the rear register
22 number shall be illuminated so as to be plainly visible
23 at a distance of not less than thirty feet. No number
24 plates other than such as are procured from the commis-
25 sion or such as may be authorized by it for temporary
26 use, except as provided in section three, shall be dis-
27 played on any automobile so operated; and if any
28 number plate supplied by the commission is lost or
29 mutilated or if the register number thereon becomes
30 illegible, the owner or person in control of the auto-
31 mobile for which said number plate was furnished shall
32 apply in writing to the commission for a new number
33 plate, and deposit with his application the sum of
34 seventy-five cents for each new number plate, and there-
35 upon the commission shall issue to such applicant a
36 permit allowing him to place a temporary plate bearing
37 his register number upon said automobile until a
38 number plate of the regular design is made and
39 delivered to said applicant: *provided, however*, that all
40 such temporary number plates and the register numbers
41 thereon shall conform to the regular number plates and
42 be displayed as nearly as may be as herein provided for
43 said regular number plates.