

No. 13

AN ACT

Amending the act of May first, one thousand nine hundred twenty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 905), entitled "An act for the protection of the public safety; regulating the use of highways, and the operation of vehicles, tractors, street cars, trackless trolley omnibuses, bicycles, pedestrians, and the riding of animals upon the highways of this Commonwealth; providing for the titling, including liens, encumbrances, and legal claims; registration of certain vehicles and licensing the operators thereof, upon payment of prescribed fees; prescribing and limiting the powers of local authorities to deal with the subject matter of this act; conferring powers and imposing duties upon the Department of Revenue, the Department of Highways, peace officers, mayors, burgesses, magistrates, aldermen, justices of the peace, the courts and the clerks thereof, owners of vehicles, and garage keepers; providing that records are admissible as evidence; imposing upon owners, counties, cities, boroughs, incorporated towns, townships, within the Commonwealth, liability for damages caused by the negligent operation of their motor vehicles; imposing penalties; imposing certain costs upon counties; providing for the disposition of fines, forfeitures, fees, and miscellaneous receipts; making an appropriation and providing for refunds," providing for issuance of special registration plates to licensed operators of amateur radio stations, requiring the secretary to furnish to sheriffs lists of special registrations and requiring sheriffs to maintain these lists.

From the melting snows of California, through the flooded valley of the Mississippi, to the hurricane lashed shores of Florida, and in the mountainous terrain of Pennsylvania, the amateur radio operator has proven his worth in time of disaster and widespread danger to the people.

He has been directly instrumental, by the dissemination of information, in saving life and property at times when regular communication facilities were disrupted.

His services in locating travelers and persons whose whereabouts are unknown and, in numerous instances, when disaster, hurricanes and storms have threatened he has been a boon to mankind.

There are many licensed amateur radio stations in Pennsylvania, ready and alert, equipped at their own expense and prepared in any emergency.

A distinctive automobile tag would prove of great aid in locating and identifying these amateur radio operators to the State Police, sheriffs, Red Cross, municipal police officers and the National Guard in time of public or private need therefor.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section four hundred fourteen, act of May first, one thousand nine hundred twenty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 905), known as "The Vehicle Code" is amended to read:

Section 414. Police Departments *and Sheriffs* to Have Registration Bulletins.—

The secretary shall issue bulletins giving the registration number, name and address of the owner of each

Section 414, act of May 1, 1929, P. L. 905, "The Vehicle Code," amended.

vehicle registered, to such police departments as he deems necessary, and such police departments are hereby prohibited from disposing of such bulletins, or parts of such bulletins, for other than information as to violations of the motor vehicle laws.

The secretary shall, on or before the first day of May of each year, furnish to the sheriff of each county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, an alphabetically arranged list of the names, addresses and license tag letters of each person to whom a license tag is issued under the provisions of subsection (e) of section five hundred one of this act. It shall be the duty of the sheriffs of the State to maintain and to keep current these lists for public information and inquiry.

Penalty.—Any person violating any of the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction thereof in a court of quarter sessions, be sentenced to pay a fine of two hundred (\$200) dollars and costs of prosecution, or undergo imprisonment for not more than three (3) years, or suffer both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 501 of the act, amended August 24, 1951, P. L. 1368, further amended by adding subsection (e).

Section 2. Section five hundred one of the act, amended August twenty-fourth, one thousand nine hundred fifty-one (Pamphlet Laws 1368), is amended by adding after subsection (d) thereof a new subsection to read:

Section 501. Registration Plates to be Furnished by Department.—

* * * * *

(e) Upon application to the department any owner of a motor vehicle, designed for passenger travel and not used for commercial purposes, residing in Pennsylvania and holding an unrevoked and unexpired General Advanced or Extra Class amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission, shall be issued a registration plate as prescribed by subsection (a) of this section on which shall be inscribed, in lieu of the registration number prescribed by subsection (b) of this section, the official amateur radio call letters assigned to the applicant by the Federal Communications Commission. The applicant shall comply with all laws pertaining to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and the application for registration, as prescribed by this subsection, shall be accompanied by proof of ownership of the aforesaid amateur radio station license and the sum of three (\$3) dollars in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for annual registration of motor vehicles.

APPROVED—The 3rd day of May, A. D. 1955.

GEORGE M. LEADER