

CHAPTER 21.

[S. B. 113.]

CLOSING STREETS AND HIGHWAYS.

AN ACT providing for the closing of certain city or town streets, county and state roads, or parts thereof, and for giving notice of such closing by the city or town governing bodies, County Commissioners or State Highway Commissioner, and providing penalty, and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Whenever the condition of any city or town street, state or county road, either newly constructed, repaired or improved or of prior construction, or any part thereof, is such that its use or continued use by vehicles will greatly damage such road, the State Highway Commissioner, if it be a state road, or the Board of County Commissioners, if it be a county road, or the governing body of a city or town, if it be a city or town street, is authorized to close such road to travel by all vehicles or to any class of vehicles, for such period as they shall determine.

When city, county, etc., may close.

SEC. 2. Before any road is closed to vehicles or any class of vehicles under this act, a notice of the date on and after which the road, or any part thereof, shall be closed, and the period of such closing, and whether it shall be closed to all vehicles or to vehicles of particular class or classes, shall be published in one issue of a newspaper printed and published in the county, city or town in which the road or street is located; and a like notice shall be posted on or prior to the date of publication of such notice, in a conspicuous place at each end of the road or street or part of said road or street to be closed: *Provided*, that no such road shall be closed sooner than three days after the publication and

Notice of closing.

posting of the notice herein provided for: *Provided, however,* in cases of emergency, the proper officers may, without publication or delay, close roads and streets temporarily by posting notices at each end of, and at, all cross-roads or streets and all roads or streets leading into, or out from, any road or street to be temporarily closed. In all emergency cases, as herein provided, the orders of the proper authorities shall be immediately effective.

Penalty.

SEC. 3. When any road, or part thereof, shall have been closed as herein provided, any person, firm or corporation disregarding such closing and using such road or part thereof with any vehicle to which said road is closed by such notice, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

Authority to successor of state highway commissioner.

SEC. 3½. The authority herein conferred upon the State Highway Commissioner shall be exercised by that officer until such time as the Director of Public Works shall be appointed and qualified. Thereafter such authority shall be vested in and exercised by the Director of Public Works through and by means of the Division of Highways.

Emergency.

SEC. 4. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and support of the state government and its existing institutions and shall take effect immediately.

Passed by the Senate February 24, 1921.

Passed by the House February 24, 1921.

Approved by the Governor February 25, 1921.