

Carolina Motor Club Legislative Program

What is Needed to Help the Motorist? Members are Asked for Expressions

Several suggestions have already been made by members regarding certain laws that should be enacted and some others that should be changed.

Your Club solicits free and full discussion of this subject by everyone. There is given here some of the suggestions already received on which expressions are desired from the members.

FIRST: North and South Carolina should adopt a uniform traffic law that will, so far as practical be uniform with the uniform laws now being enacted in many other states. Such a law would certainly add efficiency to the enforcement of the traffic regulations and make motoring more of a pleasure. Your Club now has on hand copies of the uniform laws as worked out by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, the American Automobile Association and other National bodies. Some states have already adopted these laws with few changes.

SECOND: Urge a certificate of Title Act to protect the title to motor vehicles in North and South Carolina; to provide for the issuance of certificates of title and evidence of registration thereof; to regulate purchase and sale or other transfer of ownership; to facilitate the recovery of motor vehicles stolen or otherwise unlawfully taken; to provide for the regulation and licensing of certain dealers in used and second hand vehicles.

Such a law is now in force in fourteen states. Its purpose is chiefly to prevent the sale of stolen cars. It seems reasonable that titles to motor vehicles should be provided just as provided for real estate. The cost of title would be about one dollar. A full discussion of this subject is requested by the membership and motor car owners in general.

THIRD: One of our prominent banker members recommends the enactment of a law to regulate the salaries and fees paid the rural officers in the matter of arrest of people using the highways. The suggestions are made to the club that numerous arrests are made in order to "help business." One member cites his experience recently on the highway between the cities of Charlotte and Gastonia. He declares he was not violating the law, but the officer swore that he was. At any rate it cost him ten dollars for the experience, a part of which the member understands went to the officer making the arrest. Motor car owners, please let us have your expressions on this.

FOURTH: Members report there is no differential on large trucks, equipped with pneumatic tires, over those equipped with solid tires. It is suggested that this pneumatic equipment certainly is much easier on the road, and in most states, at present time there is a differential in their favor.

FIFTH: One member suggests some provision should be made, whereby the county, when operating motor equipment would be liable for damages caused by their equipment when operated contrary to the law, causing damage to the individual the same as any other corporation. One member recently had the experience in which a truck operated by Iredell County Highway Commission, running without lights after dark, ran into an automobile in which he was driving, damaging same badly, fortunately not hurting any of the occupants. The member was unable to recover anything on account of the fact that there is no provision under the law, whereby a county can be held for damages in this case. This should be rectified. Members, give us your experiences so that all will be in the hands of the legislative committee.

SIXTH: The suggestion is made of the absolute necessity of having a law requiring all moving vehicles, whether horse-drawn, or otherwise to carry a light after dark. It is not only unfair to motorist, to be subjected to wagons and buggies and horses, on the road without proper designation after dark, but it is very dangerous to these people.

SEVENTH: Use of two state license plates instead of one is suggested because the state loses so much advertising when the car is in other states, and at times the motorist experiences trouble with small town officials who are not acquainted with our laws and think two plates are required. What's your idea on this, members?

EIGHTH: Licensing of all drivers, including owners of motor vehicles, applicants being required to pass mental and physical examinations and pay a fee of from \$1.00 to \$5.00 for drivers' license which may be revoked by a traffic court or the Secretary of State. A full expression is especially desired on this item.

NINTH: Regulation and restriction of the operation of motor busses and trucks, on state and inter-county highways. It is suggested that all commercial vehicles should be placed under the jurisdiction of the State Corporation Commission and that commercial vehicles using highways should be dealt with as common carriers; that the size, weight and speed of vehicles should be limited by law and that they should be taxed in direct proportion to the benefits which they derive from the use of the highways. Legislation of this character should not be for the purpose of crippling companies engaged in the business of commercial hauling on country roads. However, it seems only fair that these concerns should be regulated and be required to pay their full part.

TENTH: Legislation limiting the jurisdiction of justices of the peace and curtailing the authority of country constables and village magistrates, who it is suggested by some, conduct speed traps for revenue only.

ELEVENTH: A law absolutely requiring the dimming of bright lights regardless of any anti-glare lense.

TWELFTH: Legislation requiring every driver and owner of a car, operated on the roads and streets to take out liability insurance or give bond for the purpose of protecting an injured person in the event of an accident. This is especially needed for taxi drivers and cars for hire.

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THIRTEENTH: Tractors, threshing machines, road rollers, etc., should be required to remove lugs, cleats and spikes from their wheels when the same are operated on brick, cement or asphalt roads and highways. It is a mighty poor policy to build a road costing from \$20,000 to \$40,000 per mile and permit it to be damaged and destroyed by the deliberate actions of a few selfish individuals who might be put to a little inconvenience by the loss of time in removing these destructive spikes before driving on an improved road. The preservation of state highways which have been built at a great public expense, is of paramount importance.

FOURTEENTH: Legislation making it unlawful for any person not a member of the CAROLINA MOTOR CLUB within these states to exhibit or display any membership card, sign, token or other insignia of said Association, with intent to make it appear that he is a member of the CAROLINA MOTOR CLUB, or entitled to any of the benefits or advantages resulting from membership therein; any person violating any of the provisions of this Section will be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) for every such offense.

Fill in this Blank and mail today:

C. W. Roberts, Manager,
Carolina Motor Club.

I wish to make recommendations for work of our Legislative Committee as described in letter which I attach.
I also wish to voice my opinion on the subjects already recommended as follows:

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Signed ----- Address -----