

A BILL

FOR AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROMPT, FAITHFUL AND IMPARTIAL TRANSMISSION AND DELIVERY OF TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES, AND LIMITING THE COMPENSATION THEREFOR.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of every telegraph company doing business in this State, 2 to receive dispatches for transmission and delivery from and for any person, and upon payment of the usual charges therefor, according to the regulations of the company, and the 3 provisions of this act, to transmit the same faithfully, impartially and as promptly as practicable, and in the order of delivery to said company. For every failure to transmit a 4 dispatch faithfully, impartially, and as promptly as practicable, or in the order of its delivery to the company, the company shall forfeit the sum of one hundred dollars to the 5 person sending or offering to send such dispatch, and shall moreover be liable to an action 6 for damages by any person aggrieved; *provided*, that nothing herein shall prevent any such 7 company from giving preferences to dispatches of the United States, or State of Iowa, or 8 from making arrangements with proprietors or publishers of newspapers, for the transmission to them for publication, of intelligence of general or public interest, out of its regular 9 order. 10 11 12 13

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of every telegraph company, upon the receipt of a dispatch 2 at the point to which it has been transmitted by said company, to deliver it promptly to the 3 person to whom it is addressed, when the regulations of said company require such delivery, or to forward it promptly as directed when the same is to be forwarded. For every 4 failure to forward or deliver a dispatch as promptly as practicable, the company shall forfeit and pay one hundred dollars to the person sending the dispatch, and shall moreover be 5 liable to an action for damages by any person aggrieved. 6 7

SEC. 3. That it shall be unlawful for any telegraph company to charge or demand for 2 the transmission and delivery of any dispatch of twenty words or less, excluding the date, 3 address and signature thereof, between any points within this State, any sum exceeding 4 the sum of twenty-five cents, and one cent for each word in excess of twenty words. Any 5 telegraph company charging or demanding for the transmission and delivery of any dis-

6 patch, to be transmitted between points in this State, any sum in excess of the rates fixed
7 by this section shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding twenty-five dollars to the person
8 sending or offering to send the dispatch.

SEC. 4. Every person, firm, association or company doing business of telegraphing for
2 the public, shall be liable as a telegraph company to the provisions of this act.