

February 28, 1963.

House File 501

Passed on File. *Roads & Highways 3/11* By STANLEY, LANGE and McELROY.

Passed House, Date..... Passed Senate, Date.....

Vote: Ayes..... Nays..... Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....

Approved.....

A BILL FOR

An Act relating to highway safety and control of traffic at highway intersections.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. Section three hundred twenty-one point three
2 hundred forty-five (321.345), Code 1962, is hereby amended by
3 adding thereto the following:

4 "Whenever two (2) or more highways intersect, the state
5 highway commission, based on an engineering study, with reference
6 to all primary highways, and local authorities with reference
7 to all other highways under their jurisdiction, shall either:

8 1. Designate one of the intersecting highways as a through
9 highway and erect stop signs or yield signs in accordance with
10 specifications established by the state highway commission at
11 all entrances to such intersection except the entrances on the
12 through highway, so that all traffic except that using the
13 through highway shall be required to stop or yield the right of
14 way before entering such intersection; or

15 2. Designate such intersection as a stop or yield inter-
16 section and erect stop signs or yield signs in accordance with
17 specifications established by the state highway commission at all
18 entrances to such intersection except the entrances on one of the
19 intersecting highways, so that all traffic using the other high-
20 way or highways shall be required to stop or yield the right of

21 way before entering such intersection.

22 Nothing herein shall prevent the erection of stop signs at
23 all entrances to an intersection.

24 In lieu of stop signs, traffic-control signals which comply
25 with this chapter and which require traffic to stop may be used.

26 The acts required by this section shall be completed on or be-
27 fore July 1, 1968, with reference to all highways in existence
28 on or before said date.”

1 Sec. 2. Section three hundred twenty-one point two hundred
2 thirty-six (321.236), Code 1962, is hereby amended by striking
3 subsection six (6) of such section.

EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 501

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the many highway accidents which are caused by unmarked intersections. Too many drivers assume they have the right-of-way when they approach an intersection where there is no “stop” or “yield” sign.

Wherever two roads or streets intersect, traffic on one of these roads or streets should be required to yield the right-of-way. This bill will achieve this purpose by requiring “stop” or “yield” signs on one of the intersecting roads or streets.

The governing body (highway commission for primary highways, county board of supervisors or city council for other highways) may install either “stop” or “yield” signs. If “yield” signs are used, traffic in all directions will not be required to stop, but the right-of-way will be definitely fixed and marked.

The cost of the additional signs in the average county will be less than the cost of one serious accident. However, this bill allows five years for the erection of these signs, so that the cost may be spread over five years.