

collection of such claims of persons who, in the judgment of the Commissioner, are entitled to the services of the Commissioner, and who, in his judgment, have claims which are valid and enforceable in the courts. The Commissioner may also prosecute actions for the return of workmen's tools which are in the illegal possession of another person. The Commissioner is authorized to join several claimants in one lien to the extent allowed by the lien laws, and, in case of suit, to join them in one cause of action. (2) In all actions brought by the Labor Commissioner as assignee under subsection (1) of this subsection no bond or other security therefor shall be required from the said Commissioner in connection with the same.

(3) An officer, requested by the said Commissioner to serve summons, writs, complaints, orders, including any garnishment papers, and all necessary and legal papers, within his jurisdiction, shall do so without requiring the Commissioner to furnish any security or bond therefor. (4) Whenever the Commissioner shall request an officer whose duty it is to seize property or levy thereon in any attachment proceedings to satisfy any wage claim judgment, to perform any such duty, said officer shall do so without requiring the Commissioner to furnish any security or bond in such action;

and such officer, in carrying out the provisions of this paragraph, shall not be responsible in damages for any wrongful seizure made in good faith. But whenever anyone other than the defendant claims the right of possession or ownership to such seized property, then in such case the officer may permit such claimant to have the custody of such property, pending determination of the court as to who has right to possession or ownership of such property. (5) Any garnishee defendant, when required to appear in court in such action, shall do so without having paid to him witness fees in advance, but such witness fees shall be included as part of the taxable costs of such action and paid to him in due course. Out of any recovery on a judgment in such suit, there shall be paid, first, all court cost advances, which shall be returned to the Department of Labor's appropriation for such purposes; second, the wage claim involved. (6) When such court actions are lost by the Labor Commissioner, costs shall be paid by him out of money appropriated for that purpose. (7) The Commissioner shall not accept the assignment of a claim in excess of \$750.00.

Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Approved May 4, 1959

CHAPTER 173

AN ACT

To provide for the examining and licensing of operators of motor vehicles and to prohibit the operation of motor vehicles by any person or persons not so licensed upon the public highways of the state; providing for the cancellation, revocation and suspension of licenses under certain circumstances; providing penalties for violations of the provisions hereof; repealing Sec. 50-3-1, ACLA 1949, as amended by Ch. 152, SLA 1955, Sec. 50-3-2, Sec. 50-3-3, Sec. 50-3-4, Sec. 50-3-5, and Sec. 50-3-6, ACLA 1949, and Ch. 70, SLA 1953, as amended by Ch. 152, SLA 1957; and providing for an effective date.

(C.S.H.B.199)

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

Section 1. **Definitions.** The following words and phrases when used in this

Act, shall for the purpose of this Act, have the meaning respectfully ascribed to them in this section except in those instances where the context clearly indi-

cates a different meaning:

(1) "Vehicle". Every device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, excepting devices moved by human power or dogs or horses or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(2) "Motor Vehicle". Every vehicle, as herein defined, which is self-propelled.

(3) "Farm Tractor". Every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, moving machines and other implements of husbandry.

(4) "Person". Every natural person, firm, co-partnership, association or corporation.

(5) "Owner". A person who holds the legal title of a vehicle, or in the event a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof, with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee, or in the event a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then such conditional vendee or lessee or mortgagor shall be deemed the owner for the purpose of this Act.

(6) "Operator". Every person who is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle upon a highway.

(7) "Non-resident". Every person who is not a resident of this state.

(8) "Highway". The entire width between property lines of every way or place of whatever nature when any part thereof is open to the public, as a matter of right, for purpose of vehicular traffic.

(9) "Department". The Department of Public Safety acting directly or through its duly authorized officers and agents.

(10) "Superintendent". The Superintendent of State Police, acting directly or through his duly authorized officers, agents and employees, or any examining officer.

Sec. 2. Operators Must Be Licensed.

No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted, shall drive any motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless such person upon application has been licensed as an operator by the department under the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 3. What Persons Are Exempt From License. The following persons are exempt from license hereunder:

(1) Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has a valid operator's license issued by any other state or territory and who maintains his permanent residence in said state or territory.

(2) A non-resident who is at least 16 years of age and who has in his immediate possession a valid operator's license issued to him in his home state or country is exempt from being required to secure an operator's license under the provisions of this Act for a period of ninety days after entry into this state.

(3) Any person when operating or driving a road roller, road machinery, or any farm tractor or implement of husbandry temporarily drawn, moved or propelled on the highways.

Sec. 4. What Persons Shall Not Be Licensed. The Department shall not issue any license or permit hereunder to any person:

(1) Who has not made an application under oath in his own handwriting on the form provided for that purpose;

(2) Who has not attained the age of 16 years, except that the department may issue a restrictive operator's license to any person who is at least 14 years of age;

(3) Whose license has been suspended during the period of such suspension;

(4) Who is an habitual drunkard, or is an habitual user of narcotic drugs, or is an habitual user of any other drug to a degree which renders him incapable of safely operating a motor vehicle;

(5) Who has previously been adjudged to be afflicted with or suffering

from any mental disability or disease and who has not at the time of application for license been restored to competency by the methods provided by law or released from a hospital for the insane or feeble-minded upon a certificate from the superintendent of such hospital that such person is competent;

(6) Who is subject to heart attacks, fainting or dizzy spells, epileptic seizures or who does not have the normal use of both hands and feet; provided that in the latter instance a license or permit may be issued to such a person if he has no other disqualifications and demonstrates to the issuing officer that despite his infirmity he is able to operate a motor vehicle with safety;

(7) When it appears by examination or otherwise that such person is unable to exercise reasonable and ordinary control of a motor vehicle because of physical or mental disability;

(8) Who is unable to understand traffic signs or signals in the English language or who does not have a fair knowledge of traffic laws and regulations;

(9) Who has knowingly made a false statement in his application for license or has committed any fraud in connection with his application for or in procuring or attempting to procure a license;

(10) Who has not passed the examination administered by the Department;

(11) To any person who is required under the provisions of the "Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act" of this state to deposit proof of responsibility and who has not deposited such proof.

Sec. 5. Court: Reports to Department: Forms. It shall be the duty of the courts of this state to report to the department all changes of name authorized by such courts, and the name, address, age, description, and operator's license number when available, of every person adjudged to be afflicted with or suffering from any mental disability or disease or found to be guilty of chronic alcoholism or an offense involving the use of narcotics. The department shall prescribe and furn-

ish the forms for making such reports.

Sec. 6. Instruction Permits and Temporary Licenses. (1) Any person who is at least 14 years of age may apply to the department for an instruction permit. The department shall, after the applicant has successfully completed all parts of the examination other than the driving test, issue to the applicant an instruction permit which will entitle the applicant while having such permit in his immediate possession to drive a motor vehicle upon the public highways for a period of 60 days when accompanied by an adult licensed operator who has had at least 1 year of driving experience and who is occupying a seat beside the driver, except in the event the permittee is operating a motorcycle. Any such instruction permit may be renewed or a new permit issued for one additional period of 90 days. The fee for such instruction permit and renewals thereof shall be as hereafter prescribed.

(2) The department upon receiving proper application may issue a restricted instruction permit effective for a school year or more restricted period to an applicant who is enrolled in driver-education program which includes practice driving and which is approved by the department even though the applicant has not reached the legal age to be eligible for an operator's license. Such instruction permit shall entitle the permittee when he has such a permit in his immediate possession to operate upon a designated highway or within a designated area, but only when an approved instructor is occupying a seat beside the permittee. The fee for this permit shall be as hereafter prescribed.

(3) The department may issue a temporary driver's permit to an applicant for an operator's license permitting him to operate a motor vehicle while the department is completing the processing of his application or its investigation and determination of all facts relative to such applicant's right to receive an operator's license. Such permit must be in his immediate possession while operating a motor vehicle, and it shall be invalid when the applicant's license has been issued or for good cause has been denied.

(4) The department may issue a

Special Operator's Permit to any person who is at least 13 years of age with the consent of his parents or guardians for the purpose of operating a motor scooter or motor bicycle upon the highways. This permit shall be issued upon receiving proper application and payment of the prescribed fee and will be valid for a similar period of time as an operator's license.

Sec. 7. Application for License or Instruction Permit: Fee. (1) Every application for an instruction permit or for an operator's license shall be made upon a form furnished by the department and shall be accompanied by the fee prescribed therefor. The fee shall not be refunded to the applicant whenever the license applied for is denied by reason of failure to complete all examination requirements of the department within ninety days from date of application for a license. Every said application shall state the full name, date of birth, sex and residence address of the applicant, and briefly describe the applicant and shall state whether the applicant has theretofore been licensed as an operator, and, if so, when and by what territory, state or country, and whether any such license has ever been suspended or revoked, or whether an application has ever been refused, and if so, the date of and reason for such suspension, revocation or refusal.

(2) Whenever application is received from a person previously licensed in another jurisdiction, the department may request a copy of his operator's record from such other jurisdiction. When received, the operator's record shall become a part of the operator's record in this state with the same force and effect as though entered on the operator's record in this state in the original instance.

Sec. 8. Applications of Persons Under 18. (1) The application of any person under the age of 18 years for an instruction permit or operator's license shall be signed and verified before a person authorized to administer oaths, or in the presence of the Superintendent or his authorized agents, by the father, mother or guardian, or in the event there is no parent, then by a responsible adult who is willing to assume the obligation imposed under this Act upon a person sign-

ing the application.

(2) Any negligence or wilful misconduct of a person under the age of 18 years when driving a motor vehicle upon a highway shall be imputed to the person who has signed the application of such person for a permit or license, which person shall be jointly and severally liable for such person for any damages caused by such negligence or wilful misconduct except as otherwise provided in the next succeeding paragraph.

(3) In the event a person under 18 deposits or there is deposited upon his behalf proof of financial responsibility in respect to the operation of a motor vehicle owned by him, or if not the owner of a motor vehicle then with respect to the operation of any motor vehicle, in form and in amounts as required under the motor vehicle financial responsibility laws of this state, then the department may accept the application of such person when signed by one parent or the guardian of such person, and while such proof is maintained such parent or guardian shall not be subject to the liability imposed under the preceding paragraph of this section.

(4) Any person who has signed the application of a person under 18 for a license may thereafter file with the department a verified written request that the license of said person so granted be canceled. Thereupon the department shall cancel the license of said person and the person who signed the application of such person under 18 shall be relieved from the liability imposed under this Act by reason of having signed such application on account of any subsequent negligence or wilful misconduct of such person in operating a motor vehicle.

Sec. 9. Examination of Applicants: Agreements With Local Governments.

(1) The department shall examine every applicant for an operator's license, except as otherwise provided in this section. Such examination shall include a test of the applicant's eyesight, his ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning and directing traffic, his knowledge of the traffic laws of the state, and shall include an actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the opera-

tion of a motor vehicle. The department shall make provision for giving an examination either in the community wherein the applicant resides or at a place convenient to the applicant.

(2) The department is authorized to enter into agreements with local governments for the conduct of the examination provided for in this section.

Sec. 10. Licenses Issued to Operators. The department shall, upon payment of the required fee, issue to every applicant qualifying therefor an operator's license, which license shall bear thereon a distinguishing number assigned to the licensee, the full name, date of birth, address, and a brief description of the licensee, and either a facsimile of the signature of the licensee or a space upon which the licensee shall write his usual signature with pen and ink immediately upon receipt of the license. No license shall be valid until it has been so signed by the licensee.

Sec. 11. License to Be Carried and Exhibited on Demand. Every licensee shall have his operator's license in his immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and shall display the same upon demand of any uniformed peace officer or duly authorized representative of the department who identifies himself as such. However, no person charged with violating this section shall be convicted if he produces in court or in the office of the arresting officer an operator's license theretofore issued to him and valid at the time of his arrest.

Sec. 12. Restricted Licenses. (1) The department upon issuing an operator's license shall have authority whenever good cause appears, to impose restrictions suitable to the licensee's driving ability with respect to the type of, or special mechanical control devices required on a motor vehicle which the licensee may operate or such other restrictions applicable to the licensee as the department may determine to be appropriate to assure the safe operation of a motor vehicle by the licensee.

(2) The department may either issue a special restricted license or may set forth such restrictions upon the usual license form.

(3) The department may upon receiving satisfactory evidence of any violation of the restrictions of such license suspend or revoke the same but the licensee shall be entitled to a hearing as upon a suspension or revocation under this Act.

Sec. 13. Duplicate License. In the event that an instruction permit or operator's license issued under the provisions of this Act is lost or destroyed, the person to whom the same was issued shall upon the payment of the prescribed fee, obtain a duplicate, or substitute thereof, upon furnishing proof satisfactory to the department that such permit or license has been lost or destroyed.

Sec. 14. Expiration of License. (1) Every operator's license shall expire on the licensee's date of birth, two years from the birthdate preceding application. Every such license shall be renewable on, or before, its expiration upon application and payment of the prescribed fee. The department may require an examination of the applicant as upon an original application.

Sec. 15. School Bus Driver's Permit. The department shall issue a School Bus Driver's Permit upon submission of the required application and completion of driving, written and physical examinations. Such permit shall expire on September 1 of the year following issuance and may be renewed by submission to the department of a current physical examination. The fee for examination and renewal shall be as prescribed hereafter. No person may operate a school bus carrying children who is not in possession of a valid School Bus Driver's Permit.

Sec. 16. Notice of Change of Name. Any licensee who shall by marriage or otherwise change his name shall within 10 days thereafter notify the department in writing of such former and new names and of the number of any license then held by him.

Sec. 17. Records to Be Kept by the Department. (1) The department shall file every application for a license received by it and shall maintain suitable indexes containing, in alphabetical order:

(a) All applications denied and on each thereof note the reasons for denial;

(b) All applications granted; and

(c) The name of every licensee whose license has been suspended or revoked by the department and after each such name note the reasons for such action.

(2) The department shall also file all accident reports and abstracts of court records of conviction received under the laws of this state and in connection therewith maintain convenient records or make suitable notations in order that an individual record of each licensee showing the convictions of such licensee and the traffic accidents in which he has been involved shall be readily ascertainable and available for the consideration of the department upon any application for renewal of license and at other suitable times.

Sec. 18. Authority of Department to Cancel License. (1) The department is hereby authorized to cancel any operator's license upon determining that the licensee was not entitled to the issuance thereof hereunder or that said licensee failed to give the required or correct information in his application or committed any fraud in making such application.

(2) Upon such cancellation, the licensee must surrender the license so canceled to the department.

Sec. 19. Suspending Privileges of Non-residents. The privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the highways of this state given to a non-resident hereunder shall be subject to suspension in like manner and for like cause as an Operator's License issued hereunder may be suspended.

Sec. 20. When Court to Forward License and Report Convictions. (1) Whenever any person is convicted of any offense for which this Act makes mandatory the revocation of the operator's license of such person by the department, the court in which such conviction is had shall require the surrender to it of all operator's licenses then held by

the person so convicted and the court shall thereupon forward the same together with a record of such conviction to the department.

(2) Every court having jurisdiction over offenses committed under this Act, or any other Act of this state or municipal ordinance regulating the operation of motor vehicles on highways, shall forward to the department a record of the conviction of any person in said court for a violation of any said laws other than regulations governing standing or parking, and may recommend the suspension of the operator's license of the person so convicted.

(3) For the purposes of this Act the term "conviction" shall mean a final conviction. Also, for the purposes of this Act a forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure a defendant's appearance in court, which forfeiture has not been vacated, shall be equivalent to a conviction.

Sec. 21. Suspending License Upon Conviction in Another Jurisdiction. The department is authorized to suspend or revoke the license of any resident of this state or the privilege of a non-resident to drive a motor vehicle in this state upon receiving notice of the conviction of such person in another state, territory or country of an offense therein which, if committed in this state, would be grounds for suspension or revocation of the license of the operator. The department is further authorized upon receiving a record of the conviction in this state of a non-resident driver of a motor vehicle of any offense under the motor vehicle laws of this state, to forward a certified copy of such record to the motor vehicle administrator or other appropriate officer in the state wherein the person so convicted is a resident.

Sec. 22. Mandatory Revocation of License by Department. The department shall forthwith revoke the license of any operator upon receiving a record of such operator's conviction of any of the following offenses, when such conviction has become final:

(1) Manslaughter (or negligent homicide) resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle;

(2) The second offense of driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a narcotic drug to a degree which renders him incapable of safely driving a motor vehicle, either under this Act or Chapter 107, SLA 1955;

(3) Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used;

(4) Failure to stop and render aid as required under the laws of this state in the event of a motor-vehicle accident resulting in the death or personal injury of another;

(5) Perjury or the making of a false affidavit or statement under oath to the department under this Act or under any other law relating to the ownership or operation of motor vehicles;

(6) Conviction, or forfeiture of bail not vacated, upon three charges of reckless driving committed within a period of 12 months.

Sec. 23. Authority of Department to Suspend or Revoke License. (1) After giving notice and holding a hearing thereon by a supervisory officer of the department, the department is hereby authorized to suspend the license of an operator upon a showing by its records or other sufficient evidence that the licensee:

(a) Has committed an offense for which mandatory revocation of license is required upon conviction;

(b) Has been involved as a driver in any accident resulting in the death or personal injury of another or serious property damage;

(c) Has been convicted with such frequency of serious offenses against traffic regulations governing the movement of vehicles as to indicate a disrespect for traffic laws and a disregard for the safety of other persons on the highways;

(d) Is an habitually reckless or negligent driver of a motor vehicle;

(e) Is incompetent to drive a motor vehicle;

(f) Has permitted an unlawful or fraudulent use of such license; or

(g) Has committed an offense in another state which if committed in this state would be grounds for suspension or revocation.

(2) Upon suspending the license of any person as hereinbefore in this section authorized, the department shall immediately notify the licensee in writing and upon his request shall afford him an opportunity for a hearing in accord with the Administrative Procedures Act.

Sec. 24. Right of Appeal to Court. Any person denied a license or whose license has been canceled, suspended or revoked by the department may appeal in accord with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

Sec. 25. Suspending the Licenses of Juveniles. The privileges given to juveniles to operate a motor vehicle hereunder shall be subject to suspension in like manner and for like cause as an adult licensed operator.

Sec. 26. Department May Require Re-examination. (1) The department, having good cause to believe that a licensed operator is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to be licensed, may upon written notice of at least 5 days to the licensee require him to submit to an examination. Upon the conclusion of such examination the department shall take action as may be appropriate and may suspend or revoke the license of such subject or permit him to retain such license, or may issue a license subject to restrictions as permitted under Section 12 hereof. Refusal or neglect of the licensee to submit to such examination shall be grounds for revocation or suspension of his license.

(2) The department shall require the re-examination of any licensed operator who is 70 years of age or older. The licensee may be re-examined on the occasion of his license renewal every two years, or as often as shall be believed necessary by the department.

Sec. 27. Period of Suspension or Revocation. (1) The department shall not suspend the operator's license or privi-

lege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways for a period of more than one year, except a person whose license was canceled, suspended or revoked upon conviction of driving while said license was canceled, suspended or revoked shall not be issued a new license for an additional period of one year from and after the date such person would otherwise have been entitled to apply for a new license.

(2) Any person whose license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways has been revoked shall not be entitled to have such license or privilege renewed or restored unless the revocation was for a cause which has been removed, except that after the expiration of 1 year from the date on which the revoked license was surrendered to and received by the department such person may make application for a new license as provided by law, but the department shall not then issue a new license unless and until it is satisfied after investigation of the character, habits and driving ability of such person that it will be safe to grant the privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the public highways.

Sec. 28. Surrender and Return of License. The department upon suspending or revoking a license shall require that such license shall be surrendered to and be retained by the department, except that at the end of the period of suspension such license so surrendered shall be returned to the licensee.

Sec. 29. No Operation Under Foreign License During Suspension or Revocation in Alaska. Any resident or non-resident whose operator's license or right or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state has been suspended or revoked as provided by law shall not operate a motor vehicle in this state under a license, permit or registration certificate issued by any other jurisdiction or otherwise during such suspension or after such revocation until a new license is obtained when and as permitted under this Act.

Sec. 30. Unlawful Use of License. It is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not less than 10 days nor more than one year or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by

both such fine and imprisonment for any person:

(1) To display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in his possession any canceled, revoked, suspended, fictitious or fraudulently altered operator's license;

(2) To lend his operator's license to any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another;

(3) To display or represent as one's own any operator's license not issued to him;

(4) To fail or refuse to surrender to the department upon its lawful demand any operator's license which has been suspended, revoked or canceled;

(5) To use a false or fictitious name in any application for an operator's license or to knowingly make a false statement or to knowingly conceal a material fact or otherwise commit a fraud in any such application;

(6) To permit any unlawful use of an operator's license issued to him; or

(7) To do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required by this Act.

Sec. 31. Driving While License Canceled, Suspended or Revoked. Any person who drives a motor vehicle on any public highway in this state at a time when his privilege to do is canceled, suspended or revoked shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 32. Permitting Unauthorized Minor to Drive. No person shall cause or knowingly permit his child or ward under the age of 18 years to drive a motor vehicle upon any highway or street in this state when such minor is not authorized hereunder or in violation of any of the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 33. Permitting Unauthorized Person to Drive. No person shall authorize or knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned by him or under his control to be driven upon any highway or street in Alaska by any person who is not authorized hereunder or in violation of any of the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 34. Making False Statement: Per-

jury. Any person who makes any false statement or knowingly swears or affirms to any matter or thing required by this Act to be stated, sworn to or affirmed, is guilty of perjury and upon conviction shall be punishable by fine or imprisonment as other persons committing perjury are punishable.

Sec. 35. **Fees.** The following fees are hereby established for the licenses and permits described:

Operator's license (Sec. 7(1)) and renewals (Sec. 14)	\$ 3.00
School bus driver's permit (Sec. 15)	2.00
Instruction permit (Sec. 6(1))	1.00
Special operator's permit (motor scooters or motor bicycles) (Sec. 6(4))	2.00
Duplicate instruction permit or operator's license (Sec.	

13) 1.00

No Fees Required

Instruction permit, renewal (Sec.
6(1))

Instruction permit, restricted (Sec.
6(2))

Temporary driver's permit (Sec.
6(3))

School bus driver's permit, renewal
(Sec. 15)

Sec. 36. **Repeal.** Sec. 50-3-1, ACLA 1949, as amended by Ch. 152, SLA 1955, Secs. 50-3-2, 50-3-3, 50-3-4, 50-3-5, and 50-3-6, ACLA 1949, and Ch. 70, SLA 1953, as amended by Ch. 152, SLA 1957 are hereby repealed as well as all other Acts or parts of Acts in conflict herewith.

Sec. 37. **Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Approved May 4, 1959

CHAPTER 174

AN ACT

Providing for succession to the offices of governor and secretary of state; and setting an effective date.

(S.C.S.C.S.H.B. 5)

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

Section 1. The Legislature of the State of Alaska finds and declares it to be in the best interests of the people of Alaska that the offices of governor and secretary of state of Alaska, being the only elective offices of the executive branch of the government, should as nearly as possible be constantly occupied only by persons chosen by a majority of the voters of the State. When vacancies therein occur, there should be the least necessary interval until the voters may again choose persons for these offices and during which interval there should be the least necessary interruption in the continuity of administrative programs and activities of the State.

Sec. 2. The governor, following his

initial assumption of office and thereafter as provided by this Act, shall appoint, from among the officers who head the principal departments of the state government or otherwise, a person to succeed to the office of secretary of state in the event that the office of secretary of state becomes vacant for any reason. The appointment of a person next in line to become secretary of state shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature meeting in joint session. The person so designated and confirmed shall remain the next in line for succession to the office of secretary of state, subject to the pleasure of the governor. In the event any person so designated and confirmed is removed from or vacates the appointment for any reason, a successor shall be appointed by the gov-