

## MAILBOX SUPPORTS

### MINNESOTA STATUTES §169.072

#### §169.072 UNAUTHORIZED MAILBOX INSTALLATIONS

Subdivision 1. Public hazard. A mailbox installation or support on a public highway that does not meet the breakaway and location standards contained in rules adopted under Subdivision 2 is declared to be a public nuisance, a road hazard and a danger to the health and safety of the traveling public.

Subd. 2. Standards; rule making. The commissioner shall, by January 1, 1993, adopt rules that provide for standards and permissible locations of mailbox installations and supports on a street or highway. The commissioner shall base the rules substantially on federal highway administration regulations or recommendations, or other national standards or recommendations regarding the location and construction of safe, breakaway mailbox installations or supports. In adopting the rules, the commissioner shall consider the safety of the traveling public relative to the convenience and expense of owners of nonconforming mailbox installations or supports. The commissioner may provide for alternative standards to allow variances from the rules.

Subd. 3. Removal, notice. (a) After adoption of the rules authorized under Subdivision 2, the commissioner or a road authority as defined in Section 160.02, Subdivision 9, may remove and replace a mailbox installation or support that is (1) located on a street or highway under the jurisdiction of the commissioner or road authority, and (2) does not conform to the rules adopted under Subdivision 2. The commissioner or road authority may remove and replace a nonconforming mailbox installation or support not less than 60 days after giving notice, by personal notice or certified mail to the owner or the resident at the address served by the mailbox, of its intent to remove and replace the installation or support. The commissioner or road authority may charge the owner or resident not more than \$75 for the cost of the removal and replacement.

(b) The notice must at a minimum:

- 1) inform the owner of the nonconforming installation or support;
- 2) inform the owner or resident of the applicable law and rules, including the rules that contain the standards for mailbox installations and supports on public streets and highways;

- 3) inform the owner or resident that the owner or resident must remove the installation or support or bring it into compliance with the rules within 60 days of the date of the notice;
- 4) inform the owner or resident of the applicable laws and rules and the standards for mailbox installations and supports on public streets and highways, and provide plans or diagrams of examples of conforming installations or supports;
- 5) inform the owner or resident that if the nonconforming installation or support is not removed or replaced within 60 days of the date of the notice, the commissioner or road authority may remove and replace the installation or support at a cost of up to \$100 to the owner or resident; and
- 6) inform the owner or resident that where the replacement is made in conjunction with certain federally aided highway construction projects the replacement may be made at partial or no cost to the owner or resident.

History: 1991 c 339 s 6

## **BECKER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT'S MAILBOX SUPPORT PROGRAM**

### **INSTALLATION:**

The Becker County Board of Commissioners has authorized the County Highway Department to sell and install mailbox supports to any resident requiring a mailbox located along a Becker County Highway. The mailbox supports are available to these residents for the cost of materials, plus \$10.00 installation fee. This installation does NOT include the mailbox or affixing it to the support -- that is the responsibility of the resident. Installation is NOT mandatory, if the resident prefers they can install their own post following the guidelines provided.

This type of mailbox support installed correctly will help to minimize obstacles and should allow for more efficient and speedy removal of snow from County Highways.

However, this installation is not intended to release the residents from their responsibility of properly marking mailboxes covered with snow, or the cleaning away of snow for mail delivery.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Upon purchase or installation the mailbox support becomes the property of the landowner and a few minutes of annual maintenance will keep your box in working condition.

- Make sure that the swing away mechanism is functional at least once a year, fall may be best. Simply thrust the mailbox to one side, making sure to be out of the way. A properly working post will swing from side to side. Apply a little grease or heavy oil where the two pieces slip together for lubrication.
- Check the board beneath the mailbox, if this board gets rotten your mailbox may not withstand the winter weather.
- Inspect the metal on the post near the ground, after years this may get thin and the bottom post may need to be replaced.

### **COST**

The present cost of materials for the mailbox support is \$50.00 and the correct installation of the support is the responsibility of the resident. If a resident along a County Road prefers to have Becker County Highway install the support the cost will be \$60.00. Installation will be done based on work load and six to eight weeks should be allowed for installation.

If there are any questions, please give us a call at (218) 847-4463 or 847-7516.

**MAILBOX SUPPORT INSTALLATION REQUEST**

**BECKER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**  
**200 State Street East**  
**Detroit Lakes, MN 56501**  
**Phone No. 847-4463 or 846-2360**

I wish to purchase a mailbox support from the Becker County Highway Department.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type or Print)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

County Road # \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of mailbox support and installation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Payment is required prior to installation. The Support will be installed when highway crew is working in your area.

I understand the following terms of this purchase:

- The cost does NOT include the mailbox itself - I am responsible for installing the mailbox to the support.
- The mailbox support becomes my property and I am responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the mailbox and site.
- The Becker County Highway Department is not liable for damages of any nature to the support. Should damage to the support occur during Becker County Highway Department's maintenance operation of the county road, the Highway Department reserves the right to determine whether they are obligated to replace the damaged support.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature