

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

[PERFECTED]

# HOUSE BILL NO. 487

## 93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BRUNS (Sponsor) AND DEEKEN (Co-sponsor).

Read 1st time February 9, 2005 and copies ordered printed.

Read 2nd time February 10, 2005 and referred to the Committee on Transportation February 17, 2005.

Reported from the Committee on Transportation March 9, 2005 with recommendation that the bill Do Pass by Consent. Referred to the Committee on Rules pursuant to Rule 25(26)(f).

Reported from the Committee on Rules March 14, 2005 with recommendation that the bill Do Pass by Consent with no time limit for debate.

Perfected by Consent March 29, 2005.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

1532L.01P

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 304.022, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to emergency vehicles, with a penalty provision.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 304.022, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 304.022, to read as follows:

304.022. 1. Upon the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle giving audible signal by siren or while having at least one lighted lamp exhibiting red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of such vehicle or a flashing blue light authorized by section 307.175, RSMo, the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as far as possible to the right of, the traveled portion of the highway and thereupon stop and remain in such position until such emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police or traffic officer.

2. Upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying lighted red or red and blue lights, the driver of every motor vehicle shall:

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

11 (1) Proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way, if possible with due regard to safety  
12 and traffic conditions, by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the stationary  
13 vehicle, if on a roadway having at least four lanes with not less than two lanes proceeding in the  
14 same direction as the approaching vehicle; or

15 (2) Proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe  
16 speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be unsafe or impossible.

17 3. The motorman of every streetcar shall immediately stop such car clear of any  
18 intersection and keep it in such position until the emergency vehicle has passed, except as  
19 otherwise directed by a police or traffic officer.

20 4. An "emergency vehicle" is a vehicle of any of the following types:

21 (1) A vehicle operated by the state highway patrol, the state water patrol, **the Missouri**  
22 **capitol police**, or a state park ranger, those vehicles operated by enforcement personnel of the  
23 state highways and transportation commission, police or fire department, sheriff, constable or  
24 deputy sheriff, federal law enforcement officer authorized to carry firearms and to make arrests  
25 for violations of the laws of the United States, traffic officer or coroner or by a privately owned  
26 emergency vehicle company;

27 (2) A vehicle operated as an ambulance or operated commercially for the purpose of  
28 transporting emergency medical supplies or organs;

29 (3) Any vehicle qualifying as an emergency vehicle pursuant to section 307.175, RSMo;

30 (4) Any wrecker, or tow truck or a vehicle owned and operated by a public utility or  
31 public service corporation while performing emergency service;

32 (5) Any vehicle transporting equipment designed to extricate human beings from the  
33 wreckage of a motor vehicle;

34 (6) Any vehicle designated to perform emergency functions for a civil defense or  
35 emergency management agency established pursuant to the provisions of chapter 44, RSMo;

36 (7) Any vehicle operated by an authorized employee of the department of corrections  
37 who, as part of the employee's official duties, is responding to a riot, disturbance, hostage  
38 incident, escape or other critical situation where there is the threat of serious physical injury or  
39 death, responding to mutual aid call from another criminal justice agency, or in accompanying  
40 an ambulance which is transporting an offender to a medical facility;

41 (8) Any vehicle designated to perform hazardous substance emergency functions  
42 established pursuant to the provisions of sections 260.500 to 260.550, RSMo.

43 5. (1) The driver of any vehicle referred to in subsection 4 of this section shall not sound  
44 the siren thereon or have the front red lights or blue lights on except when such vehicle is  
45 responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected law violator, or  
46 when responding to, but not upon returning from, a fire.

- 47           (2) The driver of an emergency vehicle may:
- 48           (a) Park or stand irrespective of the provisions of sections 304.014 to 304.026;
- 49           (b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be
- 50 necessary for safe operation;
- 51           (c) Exceed the prima facie speed limit so long as the driver does not endanger life or
- 52 property;
- 53           (d) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified
- 54 directions.
- 55           (3) The exemptions granted to an emergency vehicle pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
- 56 subsection shall apply only when the driver of any such vehicle while in motion sounds audible
- 57 signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle as may be reasonably necessary, and when the vehicle
- 58 is equipped with at least one lighted lamp displaying a red light or blue light visible under normal
- 59 atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of such vehicle.
- 60           6. No person shall purchase an emergency light as described in this section without
- 61 furnishing the seller of such light an affidavit stating that the light will be used exclusively for
- 62 emergency vehicle purposes.
- 63           7. Violation of this section shall be deemed a class C misdemeanor.