

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 489

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES MEADOWS (Sponsor), SELBY, CASEY, ROORDA, PRATT,
SCHOEMEHL, JOLLY AND JACKSON (Co-sponsors).

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

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

1342L.011

AN ACT

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

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Section A. Section 304.022, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 304.022, to read as follows: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

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

(2) Proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe

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.

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 or a state park
22 ranger, those vehicles operated by enforcement personnel of the state highways and
23 transportation commission, police or fire department, sheriff, constable or deputy sheriff, federal
24 law enforcement officer authorized to carry firearms and to make arrests for violations of the
25 laws of the United States, traffic officer or coroner or by a privately owned emergency vehicle
26 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] **B** misdemeanor.