

SS HB 1733 -- THE REGULATION OF VEHICLES

(Vetoed by Governor)

TRACTOR TRAILER AND SEMITRAILER (Section 301.067, RSMo)

Currently, tractors are operated under the supervision of the Motor Carrier and Railroad Safety Division within the Department of Economic Development. This bill changes supervision to the Highways and Transportation Commission within the Department of Transportation. This bill also removes an outdated provision regarding operating a semitrailer.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER ENDORSEMENTS (Section 302.276)

Currently, a school bus driver endorsement shall not be issued or renewed for an applicant whose driving record shows that his or her privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been suspended, revoked or disqualified, or whose driving record shows a history of moving vehicle violations, to the best of the Director of the Department of Revenue's knowledge. This bill requires that any driver with a school bus driver endorsement must immediately have his or her endorsement revoked upon a second suspension or revocation of his or her license or driving privilege and shall remain ineligible for any future school bus endorsement.

AUTOCYCLES (Section 304.005)

This bill defines an autocycle as a three wheeled motor vehicle on which drivers and passengers ride in a completely enclosed, tandem seating area that is controlled with a steering wheel and pedals and contains additional safety and equipment requirements. Autocycle operators are exempted from the motorcycle helmet requirement with specific safety equipment requirements. This bill also requires autocycle operators to have a driver's license without requiring a motorcycle or motortricycle license or endorsement.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES (Section 304.022)

This bill revises the definition of an "emergency vehicle" as it relates to traffic regulations to include any vehicle owned and operated by the Civil Support Team of the Missouri National Guard while in the response to or during operations involving specified materials, in support of official requests from the state involving unknown or hazardous materials, or as may be requested by the appropriate state agency acting on behalf of the Governor.

CONNECTED VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY (Section 304.044)

The bill exempts connected vehicle technology testing programs from the requirements that a driver of a truck or bus not follow another such vehicle within 300 feet, and that a driver of a vehicle not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonably safe and prudent. A connected vehicle technology testing program is limited to trucks on Missouri public highways using networked wireless communication devices, and the operation of multiple or single pairs of no more than two vehicles in a single convoy or formation. These provisions will sunset six years after the effective date.

#### BUS LENGTH (Section 304.170)

Currently, a bus may not exceed 45 feet in length except with safety bumpers. This bill allows articulated buses, or buses having two or more sections connected by a joint, to be up to 60 feet in length not including safety bumpers which may extend one foot in both the front and rear.

#### WORK ZONE VEHICLES (Section 307.175)

The bill permits motor vehicles and equipment owned by the state Highways and Transportation Commission or a contractor or subcontractor performing work for the Department of Transportation to use or display fixed, flashing, or rotating red or blue lights which shall only be used when such vehicle is stationary in a work zone when highway workers are present.

#### LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT (Section 577.060)

The bill specifies that the offense of leaving the scene of an accident is a class D felony in 2016, and a class C felony in 2017, if a death has occurred as a result of the accident.