

HCS HB 275 -- TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

SPONSOR: Spencer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Government Oversight by a vote of 7 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill requires motorists charged with traffic violations to receive notification, in person, from an officer employed by the law enforcement agency issuing the violation, within 24 hours of the violation. This does not apply to parking tickets, incidents requiring further investigation, or any other situation in which in-person notification is not possible.

This bill prohibits any state agency or political subdivision of this state from enacting or enforcing any law that authorizes the use of an automated traffic system which records images of cars, drivers, or the license plates in order to establish that a traffic infraction occurred. The bill does not apply to information recorded and used at weigh stations managed by the State Highway Patrol or the Department of Transportation. Any state agency or political subdivision that currently has an automated traffic enforcement system installation or maintenance contract must complete or terminate the contract within one year.

This bill is similar to HB 1945 (2016) and HB 234 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will prevent the current practice of predatory taxation by traffic fine and reduce accidents caused by slamming on the brakes to avoid fines. Most revenue from fines currently goes to the camera operating companies and not to political subdivisions.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Spencer; Abate For Missouri; and Jason Cadoll.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that they wish to preserve the use of technologies such as body cameras and license plate readers for non-traffic violation purposes and it should be possible to accomplish this in a substitute version of the bill.

Testifying against the bill were the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the Missouri Police Chiefs Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they would also like to modify the bill to exclude weigh stations.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Trucking Association.