

HCS HB 725 & 684 -- MOTOR VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Crawford

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation and Motor Vehicles by a vote of 16 to 4.

This substitute makes numerous changes relating to motor vehicles.

SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

Any organization seeking authorization to establish a new specialty license plate, other than a military specialty license plate, must submit to the Department of Revenue a minimum of 100 applications, with specialty plate fees and a \$5,000 application fee. The department will submit for approval all applications for development of special license plates to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight. If the specialty plate request is approved by the joint committee, the organization must submit the proposed art design no later than 60 days after approval. If the specialty plate is not approved, 97% of the application fee will be refunded to the requesting organization along with the specialty plate fees submitted. Any person or organization who receives a notice of denial of application for development of a specialty plate may request a review within 15 days of a notice of denial.

The substitute increases specialty plate fees from \$15 to \$25.

TOWING AND STORAGE

Wreckers, tow trucks, or rollbacks requested by law enforcement will be considered emergency vehicles after arriving at a scene of an accident or abandoned property. Storage facilities that have stored an unsalvageable abandoned motor vehicle that has not been claimed for 90 days may dispose of the property as scrap property. The substitute establishes the procedures.

COMMERCIAL ZONE

The substitute extends the Kansas City commercial zone south along U. S. Highway 71 and State Route 291 to and including the City of Harrisonville.

USE OF HEADLIGHTS

Motor vehicle headlamps will be required to be in use at any time when weather conditions require the use of windshield wipers and in foggy conditions.

COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES

The substitute puts statutory provisions regulating commercial motor vehicle registration under the authority of the Highways and Transportation Commission instead of the Department of Economic Development. This move is necessitated by reorganization under the Governor's Executive Order 02-03 (February 7, 2002).

Procedures are established for quarterly staggering of annual commercial motor vehicle registrations.

BICYCLES

The substitute amends the Model Traffic Ordinance to provide that a motor vehicle cannot be driven or parked within a bicycle lane. A motor vehicle may be driven in a bicycle lane only for the purpose of a lawful maneuver to cross the lane or provide for safe travel.

Motorists will be required to exercise the highest degree of care to avoid colliding with bicyclists and motorcyclists.

Motorists who intentionally, recklessly, or negligently collide with pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorcyclists will be held liable for a minimum of \$500 in compensatory damages. If the motorist does the same act but has six or more points on his or her driver's license, has a prior conviction for an intoxication-related offense, or has previously caused personal injury to a pedestrian or cyclist, the motorist will be liable for a minimum of \$1,000 in compensatory damages and will be subject to having 12 points assessed on his or her driver's license and the license revoked for a period of one year.

SCHOOL ZONES

Counties and municipalities will be allowed to establish a maximum speed limit of 20 miles per hour within school zones and, in conjunction with the school board, may establish a lower speed limit if needed for public safety.

STREET RODS AND CUSTOM VEHICLES

The substitute establishes new registration procedures for street rods and custom vehicles.

The owner must certify at the time of registration that the vehicle will be maintained for occasional transportation, exhibits, club activities, parades, tours, and similar uses and will not be used for general daily transportation. These

vehicles initially must be safety inspected but will be exempted from periodic vehicle inspections and from any emission inspections.

The model year and the year of manufacture that are listed on the certificate of title will be the model year and year of manufacture that the body resembles. The current and all subsequent certificates of ownership will be designation as a "REPLICA" vehicle.

License plates for these categories of vehicles will have "STREET ROD" or "CUSTOM VEHICLE" designation.

A street rod or custom vehicle may use blue dot tail lights for stop lamps, rear turning indicator lamps, rear hazard lamps, and rear reflectors.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say staggering commercial motor vehicle registrations allows the workload to be distributed throughout the year and allows for a more efficient operation. The provisions regarding bicyclist and pedestrian safety would eliminate barriers to safe bicycle and pedestrian transportation.

Testifying for House Bill 725 were Representative Kingery; Department of Transportation; and Missouri Motor Carriers Association.

Testifying for House Bill 684 were Representative Jones; Department of Transportation; Missouri National Education Association; and Trail Net, St. Louis.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst