

SCS HB 996 and HB 1142 and HCS HB 1201 and HB 1489 -- MOTOR VEHICLES

This bill changes the laws regarding motor vehicles.

SCHOOL BUS FRAMES

The State Highway Patrol is required to include the frames on school buses as part of the annual school bus inspection.

LOW-SPEED VEHICLES

Operators of low-speed vehicles are allowed to use public highways under certain conditions. A low-speed vehicle is a four-wheeled vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but less than 25 miles per hour and is manufactured in compliance with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration standards. It cannot be operated on a street or highway with a posted speed limit greater than 35 miles per hour. The vehicle will be exempt from inspection and emission testing, but must comply with the federal standards. Every operator of a low-speed vehicle must maintain financial responsibility and have a driver's license. Cities and counties may promulgate ordinances which are more stringent than the provisions in the bill.

DISPOSAL OF DAMAGED VEHICLES

The City of Kansas City is allowed to adopt by ordinance regulations for the removal and sale of abandoned property by requiring:

- (1) The Department of Revenue to search the records to determine ownership of the abandoned property;
- (2) Notification to the owner by mail advising of the towing and impoundment;
- (3) Vehicles older than six years and more than 50% damaged by collision, fire, or decay that are valued at less than \$200, be held at least 10 days before being sold to a licensed salvage or scrap business; and
- (4) All other vehicles be held at least 30 days before being sold.

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

The definition of "all-terrain vehicle" (ATV) is changed to include ATVs weighing up to 1,000 pounds and ATVs with a seat

designed to carry more than one person. The bill also specifies that current provisions for ATVs which prohibit carrying a passenger will not apply to ATVs designed to carry more than one person.

EXEMPTIONS FROM EMISSIONS PROCESS

All vehicles manufactured 26 years or more prior to the current model are exempted from vehicle emission testing.

BUMPER HEIGHTS

The bill adds a new maximum bumper height of 29 inches for the front bumper and 31 inches for the rear bumper for commercial motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 9,001 pounds through 11,500 pounds.