

HCS SCS SB 372 -- BICYCLE SAFETY

SPONSOR: Engler (Kuessner)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding bicycle safety. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Revises the definition of "bicycle" to include vehicles propelled by human power having two parallel wheels and one forward or rear wheel, all of which are more than 14 inches in diameter;
- (2) Prohibits blocking or obstructing a designated bicycle lane with a parked or standing motor vehicle or other stationary object;
- (3) Establishes standards for motorists crossing bicycle lanes;
- (4) Defines a "designated bicycle lane" as a portion of the roadway or highway which has been designated by the governing body having jurisdiction over the roadway by striping with signing or pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles;
- (5) Requires a motorist when passing a bicyclist to leave a safe distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle;
- (6) Provides that bicycles operating at less than the posted speed limit or slower than the flow of traffic may be operated on the shoulder adjacent to the roadway; and
- (7) Provides that a bicyclist must signal in the same manner as other vehicles except that continuously signaling by hand and arm is not required if the hand is needed for the control or operation of the bicycle.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say the bill is a safety enhancement for bicyclists and pedestrians, will improve Missouri's reputation in the national bicycling community, and help bicycle tourism.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Engler; Missouri Insurance Coalition; Farmers Insurance Company; Missouri Parks and Recreation Association; Department of Transportation; and Missouri Bicycle Federation, Incorporated.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst