

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 341

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES MUNZLINGER (Sponsor), RUESTMAN, SWINGER,
JONES (117) AND PARSON (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time January 11, 2007 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

0901L.01I

AN ACT

To repeal section 304.230, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to commercial vehicle inspectors and enforcement officers.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 304.230, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 304.230, to read as follows:

304.230. 1. It shall be the duty of the sheriff of each county or city to see that the provisions of sections 304.170 to 304.230 are enforced, and any peace officer or police officer of any county or city or any highway patrol officer shall have the power to arrest on sight or upon a warrant any person found violating or having violated the provisions of such sections.

2. The sheriff or any peace officer or any highway patrol officer is hereby given the power to stop any such conveyance or vehicle as above described upon the public highway for the purpose of determining whether such vehicle is loaded in excess of the provisions of sections 304.170 to 304.230, and if he or she finds such vehicle loaded in violation of the provisions thereof he or she shall have a right at that time and place to cause the excess load to be removed from such vehicle; and provided further, that any regularly employed maintenance man of the department of transportation shall have the right and authority in any part of this state to stop any such conveyance or vehicle upon the public highway for the purpose of determining whether such vehicle is loaded in excess of the provisions of sections 304.170 to 304.230, and if he or she finds such vehicle loaded in violation of the provisions thereof, he or she shall have the right

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

15 at that time and place to cause the excess load to be removed from such vehicle. When only an
16 axle or a tandem axle group of a vehicle is overloaded, the operator shall be permitted to shift
17 the load, if this will not overload some other axle or axles, without being charged with a
18 violation; provided, however, the privilege of shifting the weight without being charged with a
19 violation shall not extend to or include vehicles while traveling on the federal interstate system
20 of highways. When only an axle or tandem axle group of the vehicle traveling on the federal
21 interstate system of highways is overloaded and a court authorized to enforce the provisions of
22 sections 304.170 to 304.230 finds that the overloading was due to the inadvertent shifting of the
23 load changing axle weights in transit through no fault of the operator of the vehicle and that the
24 load thereafter had been shifted so that no axle had been overloaded, then the court may find that
25 no violation has been committed. The operator of any vehicle shall be permitted to back up and
26 reweigh, or to turn around and weigh from the opposite direction. Any operator whose vehicle
27 is weighed and found to be within five percent of any legal limit may request and receive a
28 weight ticket, memorandum or statement showing the weight or weights on each axle or any
29 combinations of axles. Once a vehicle is found to be within the limits of section 304.180 after
30 having been weighed on any state scale and there is no evidence that any cargo or fuel has been
31 added, no violation shall occur, but a presumption shall exist that cargo or fuel has been added
32 if upon reweighing on another state scale the total gross weight exceeds the applicable limits of
33 section 304.180 or 304.190. The highways and transportation commission of this state may
34 deputize and appoint any number of their regularly employed maintenance men to enforce the
35 provisions of such sections, and the maintenance men delegated and appointed in this section
36 shall report to the proper officers any violations of sections 304.170 to 304.230 for prosecution
37 by such proper officers.

38 3. The superintendent of the Missouri state highway patrol may assign qualified persons
39 who are not highway patrol officers to supervise or operate permanent or portable weigh stations
40 used in the enforcement of commercial vehicle laws. These persons shall be designated as
41 commercial vehicle inspectors and have limited police powers:

42 (1) To issue uniform traffic tickets at a permanent or portable weigh station for violations
43 of rules and regulations of the division of motor carrier [and railroad safety of the department of
44 economic development] **services of the highways and transportation commission** and
45 department of public safety, and laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to commercial motor
46 vehicles and trailers and related to size, weight, fuel tax, registration, equipment, driver
47 requirements, transportation of hazardous materials and operators' or chauffeurs' licenses, and
48 the provisions of sections 303.024 and 303.025, RSMo;

49 (2) To require the operator of any commercial vehicle to stop and submit to a vehicle and
50 driver inspection to determine compliance with commercial vehicle laws, rules, and regulations,

51 the provisions of sections 303.024 and 303.025, RSMo, and to submit to a cargo inspection when
52 reasonable grounds exist to cause belief that a vehicle is transporting hazardous materials as
53 defined by Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations;

54 (3) To make arrests for violation of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.
55 Commercial vehicle inspectors shall not have the authority to exercise the powers granted in
56 subdivisions (1), (2) and (3) of this subsection until they have successfully completed training
57 approved by the superintendent of the Missouri state highway patrol; nor shall they have the right
58 as peace officers to bear arms.

59 4. The superintendent of the Missouri state highway patrol may appoint qualified
60 persons, who are not members of the highway patrol, designated as commercial vehicle
61 enforcement officers, with the powers:

62 (1) To issue uniform traffic tickets for violations of laws, rules and regulations pertaining
63 to commercial vehicles, trailers, special mobile equipment and drivers of such vehicles, and the
64 provisions of sections 303.024 and 303.025, RSMo;

65 (2) To require the operator of any commercial vehicle to stop and submit to a vehicle and
66 driver inspection to determine compliance with commercial vehicle laws, rules, and regulations,
67 compliance with the provisions of sections 303.024 and 303.025, RSMo, and to submit to a
68 cargo inspection when reasonable grounds exist to cause belief that a vehicle is transporting
69 hazardous materials as defined by Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations;

70 (3) To make arrests upon warrants and for violations of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this
71 subsection. **Commercial vehicle officers selected and designated as peace officers by the**
72 **superintendent of the Missouri state highway patrol are hereby declared to be peace**
73 **officers of the state of Missouri, with full power and authority to make arrests solely for**
74 **violations under the powers granted in subdivisions (1) to (3) of this subsection.**
75 Commercial vehicle enforcement officers shall not have the authority to exercise the powers
76 granted in subdivisions (1), (2) and (3) of this subsection until they have successfully completed
77 training approved by the superintendent of the Missouri state highway patrol **and have**
78 **completed the mandatory standards for the basic training and licensure of peace officers**
79 **established by the peace officers standards and training commission under subsection 1 of**
80 **section 590.030, RSMo. Commercial vehicle officers who are employed and performing**
81 **their duties on August 28, 2007, shall have until July 1, 2011, to comply with the mandatory**
82 **standards regarding police officer basic training and licensure.** Commercial vehicle
83 enforcement officers shall have the right as peace officers to bear arms.

84 5. Any additional employees needed for the implementation of this section shall be hired
85 in conformity with the provisions of the federal fair employment and antidiscrimination acts.

86 6. Any part of this section which shall be construed to be in conflict with the axle or
87 tandem axle load limits permitted by the Federal-Aid Highway Act, Section 127 of Title 23 of
88 the United States Code (Public Law 85-767, 85th Congress) shall be null, void and of no effect.

✓