

HB 85 -- PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Redmon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill adds stationary public utility vehicles displaying lighted amber or amber and white lights to the list of emergency vehicles for which drivers of every motor vehicle must move over or slow down.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1449 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will help ensure both public safety and utility worker safety by imposing the same requirement to change lanes as is currently imposed to protect law enforcement officers. Downed power lines can be a special threat to public safety, so a "slow down and move over" type rule may be beneficial.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Redmon; Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives; Missouri Telecommunications Industry Assoc; Gas Workers 11-6; Cheryl Norton, Missouri American Water; Empire District Electric; Scott Brewer, Missouri American Water; Timothy Campbell, Missouri American Water; Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities; and National Waste & Recycling Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.