

HCS HB 108 -- CONNECTED VEHICLE TESTING PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Davis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 8 to 2.

This bill exempts certain trucks participating in connected vehicle testing programs approved by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission from road rules under Section 304.044, RSMo. Drivers will be present behind the wheel of each truck. The commission may promulgate rules to regulate networking under the testing program and shall designate times and highway stretches for the testing program.

The bill will sunset six years after the effective date.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will only allow testing of a technology similar to cruise control for multiple vehicles. Federal law requires extensive insurance which will apply to the testing program. The legislature would have to authorize any permanent or actual use of the technology outside of the testing phase.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis; Scott Marion, Department of Transportation; Jay Benson; and Missouri Trucking Association.

OPPONENTS: The technology could result in accidents by reducing the spacing between trucks if any type of mechanical failure or other incident occurs. The bill fails to mandate additional insurance.

Testifying in opposition were the Teamsters and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.