

CCS SB 8 -- TRANSPORTATION

This bill relates to transportation. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Creates a graduated tax system for propane fueled vehicles. Tax rates are specified in the bill and the taxes are collected and used for the same purposes as the state road tax. Propane fueled vehicles may continue to apply for and use alternative fuel decals in lieu of paying the tax. No fuel decal is required for vehicles that fuel at stations collecting the new propane tax, however, there is no refund policy for vehicles with fuel decals that choose to obtain fuel at unattended stations where tax is automatically collected at the point of sale. This bill also requires owners of new electric hybrid cars with a model year of 2018 or newer to pay one-half of the stated annual alternative fuel decal fee for recharging at electrical power sources (Sections 142.800, 142.803, and 142.869, RSMo);

(2) Allows a local log truck to obtain a special \$300 permit to transport forest products outside the normal 100-mile radius at weigh limits set for commercial vehicles (Sections 301.010 and 301.062);

(3) Defines an autocycle as a three-wheeled motor vehicle where the driver and passenger ride in an enclosed or partially enclosed seating area so that they are not considered motorcycles. These vehicles must meet specified federal Department of Transportation or Federal Motorcycle Safety Standards (Section 304.005);

(4) Specifies that any commercial vehicle which travels on designated municipal routes is not subject to nuisance claims (Section 304.120)

(5) Allows the use of articulated buses up to 60 feet in length with addition exceptions for bike racks and bumpers (Section 304.170);

(6) Allows agricultural machinery to operate on state highways for agricultural purposes between sundown and sunset if equipped with proper lighting under the requirements of Section 307.115 (Section 304.170);

(7) Establishes a minimum legal standard of 75% functionality for LED lights using diodes (Section 307.005); and

(8) Allows the use of both red and blue lights and white and amber lights in specified circumstances for the Department of Transportation, utility workers, and contractors thereof (Sections

304.022 and 307.175).

#### FEDERAL MANDATE PROVISIONS

In its main provisions, the federal mandate specifies:

(1) Changes definitions for specified terms including "automobile transporter," which is now defined as any vehicle combination capable of carrying cargo on the power unit and designed and used for the transport of assembled motor vehicles, including truck camper units; "backhaul" is the return trip of a vehicle transporting cargo or general freight, especially when carrying goods back over all or part of the same route; "boat transporter," is any vehicle combination capable of carrying cargo on the power unit and designed and used specifically to transport assembled boats and boat hulls and boats may be partially disassembled to facilitate transporting; "towaway trailer transporter combination," is a combination of vehicles consisting of a trailer transporter towing unit and two trailers or semitrailers, with a total weight that does not exceed 26,000 pounds; and in which the trailers or semitrailers carry no property and constitute inventory property of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of such trailers or semitrailers; "trailer transporter towing unit," is a power unit that is not used to carry property when operating in a towaway trailer transporter combination (Section 301.010);

(2) Changes the requirements for stinger-steered combination automobile transporters having a length not in excess of 80 feet may be operated on the interstate highways of this state and such other highways as may be designated by the commission for the operation of such vehicles plus a distance not to exceed 10 miles from such interstate or designated highway. All length provisions regarding stinger-steered automobile combination transporters are exclusive of front and rear overhang, which shall be no greater than a four-foot front overhang and no greater than a six-foot rear overhang (Section 304.170);

(3) Allows automobile transporters to transport cargo or general freight on a backhaul, in compliance with weight limitations for a truck-tractor and semitrailer combination as outlined in Section 304.180 (Section 304.170);

(4) Requires any towaway trailer transporter combination vehicle operated upon the interstate and designated primary highway system in this state to have an overall length of not more than 82 feet (304.170);

(5) Allows emergency vehicles designed to be used under emergency conditions to transport personnel and equipment and to mitigate

hazardous situations to have a maximum gross vehicle weight of 86,000 pounds inclusive of 24,000 pounds on a single steering axle; 32,500 on a single drive axle; 62,000 on a tandem axle; or 52,000 on a tandem rear drive steer axle (304.180);

(6) Allows a vehicle operated by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas to operate on state highways in excess of the vehicle weight limits in these provisions by an amount that is equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system. The maximum gross vehicle weight of the vehicle operating with a natural gas engine shall not exceed 82,000 pounds (Section 304.180); and

(7) Updates language to reference the State Highways and Transportation Commission instead of the Department of Transportation.

The vehicle lighting section of the bill contains an emergency clause.