

CCS SB 222 -- TRANSPORTATION

This bill changes transportation regulations. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Establishes a minimum legal standard of 75% functionality for specified vehicle light bulbs and other types of illumination that have multiple diodes or light sources (Section 307.005, RSMo);
- (2) Modifies the definition of autocycles so that they are regulated similarly to motor vehicles and not motorcycles (Section 304.005);
- (3) Requires all vehicles authorized to use red and blue or white and amber flashing lights in the requirement for motorists to pull over to the side of the road while such vehicles pass (Section 304.022);
- (4) Allows use of articulated buses up to 60 feet in length with exceptions for bumpers and bike racks (Section 304.170); and
- (5) Allows emergency vehicles and Department of Transportation vehicles to use red and blue flashing lights under specified conditions and allows state highway commission and its contractors and utility vehicles to use white and amber lights under specified conditions (Section 307.175).

FEDERAL MANDATE PROVISIONS

The bill makes changes to Missouri law to comply with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015.

In its main provisions, the bill:

- (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;

(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;

(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;

(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;

(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;

(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; and

(7) Updates language to reflect the State Highways and Transportation Commission.