

CCS HCS SB 225 -- TRANSPORTATION

The bill modifies provisions relating to transportation. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Allows the use of average distance charts as specified in the bill for calculating interjurisdictional assessed valuations (Section 137.095, RSMo);
- (2) Provides that two- and four-year colleges are eligible for the same type of directional road signs (Section 226.520);
- (3) Specifies that any camping or fifth-wheel trailer that is over 25 years old may be permanently registered by filing an application with the Department of Transportation and paying a \$52.50 registration fee (Section 301.136);
- (4) 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);
- (5) Adds specified National Guard vehicles to the list of emergency vehicles (Section 304.022);
- (6) Accommodates articulated buses up to 60 feet in length with additional allowances for storage racks and bumpers (Section 304.170);
- (7) Expands the commercial zone in Kansas City which prohibits certain vehicles exceeding 15 feet in height or 22,400 pounds per axle, to include specified roads and the cities of Lone Jack and Strasburg (Section 304.190); and
- (8) Adds recipients of specified military awards to the special license plate provisions of Section 304.725.

FEDERALLY MANDATED TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS

This bill also contains provisions that are federally mandated and makes changes to Missouri law to comply with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015. In its main provisions, the federal mandate portion of the bill:

- (1) Changes definitions for specified terms as follows:
"automobile transporter," 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," 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," 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," 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; and "trailer transporter towing unit," 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 (Section 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 (Section 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.