

HCS SCS SB 399 -- TRANSPORTATION

SPONSOR: Romine (Korman)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

The bill changes transportation laws. 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 85 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, RSMo;

(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;

(7) 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;

(8) 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;

(9) Updates language to reflect the State Highways and Transportation Commission;

(10) Allows the use of specified articulated buses up to 60 feet in length with additional accommodation for bumpers and bicycle storage racks;

(11) Changes the definition of motor fuel to include electricity and propane and gives the owner of an alternative fueled vehicle the choice of purchasing an alternative fuel decal or paying the appropriate road tax at the time of refueling;

(12) Requires local political subdivisions imposing local sales taxes or excise taxes after January 1, 2017, to use 90% of such funds for road and street maintenance and repair and no more than 10% on policing, signing, lighting, or cleaning of roads and streets;

(13) Reauthorizes exemptions for enhanced enterprise zones under Section 135.963 so that they may be granted for a period of up to 25 years;

(14) Allows port authorities to establish an advanced industrial manufacturing zone on property they control and to expand such zones by resolution; and

(15) Changes requirements for listing business name, location, and address on applications for licensure as a motor vehicle dealer. Specifies that a bond required for licensure as a motor vehicle dealer in specified circumstances will be \$50,000 instead of

\$25,000. An annual certification requirement is modified for new motor vehicle franchise dealer applicants so that they must show proof of a place of business for a three-year period and that the applicant may be contacted by email.

This bill is similar to HCS SB 225 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is federally mandated and will help preserve \$65 million in federal funding. It updates laws governing combination automobile transporters and certain weight limits.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Romine and MoDOT.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.