

HCS SS SB 881 -- Transportation

SPONSOR: Eigel (Davis)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 8 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill changes transportation laws. In its main provisions the bill:

(1) Greatly reduces the requirements for an annual report to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight and specifies that the department may provide existing publications to the committee (Section 21.795, RSMo);

(2) Expands the term "contiguous and compact" as used in the annexation laws by providing that it includes a situation whereby the unincorporated area proposed to be annexed would be contiguous and compact to the existing corporate limits of the city, town, or village but for an intervening roadway or railroad right-of-way, regardless of whether any other city, town, or village has annexed the roadway or otherwise has an easement in the roadway. For an annexation to which an objection has been made, the municipality must demonstrate that the "shared" border is at least 15% of the total perimeter of the land to be annexed. How the "shared" border is determined given the intervening roadway or railroad right-of-way is specified (Sections 71.012 and 71.015);

(3) Creates the "Emergency Bridge Repair and Replacement Fund," which consists of moneys appropriated from General Revenue to the Department of Transportation for accelerated bridge replacements or immediate repairs to bridges in critical disrepair (Section 226.228);

(4) Enables the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to issue requests for the sale or leasing of naming rights of particular highways or bridges. The sale or lease shall go to the best qualified bidder, and be approved by both the commission and the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight. A naming rights contract or lease may be disapproved for any reason, and shall not exceed 10 years in length. No naming rights may be sold or leased for any highway portion or bridge that has been designated as a memorial highway or bridge prior to August 28, 2018 (Section 227.218);

(5) Allows the department to set the utility corridor at 12 feet in width when space is reasonably available. Existing law applies

to any type of modifications within utility corridors, and the department is required to set standardized rules for issuing variances to utility corridor requirements (Section 227.240);

(6) Changes the definition of "local log truck" and "local log truck tractor" to allow the trucks to pull a trailer that has up to three axles. It also requires the return of specified temporary license plates to the Missouri Department of Revenue for destruction when new registration plates are issued. Temporary plates for commercial vehicles in excess of 24,000 lbs are exempt (Sections 310.010 and 301.140);

(7) Defers annual registration fees for certain recreational trailers from December 2018 until May 2019 and allows such fees to be collected each May thereafter (Section 301.067);

(8) Allows veterans to receive extra sets of disabled veteran license plates if the same fees are paid (Section 301.075);

(9) Specifies that no additional fee will be charged for Congressional Medal of Honor license plates (Section 301.145);

(10) Clarifies that the biometric data, digital images, source documents, and licensee signatures required to be collected or retained to comply with the requirements of the federal REAL ID Act of 2005 shall be digitally retained for no longer than the minimum duration required (Section 302.170);

(11) Allows the department to issue annual permits for certain small cranes that are similar in size to equipment already receiving such permits (Section 304.180);

(12) Expands a commercial zone near Kansas City as specified (Section 304.190);

(13) Includes specified types of equipment along with the vehicles that are allowed to make use of emergency lighting (Section 307.175);

(14) Authorizes the use of valid vehicle inspections, made by a dealer within 60 days of the purchase date, by the new car owner for purposes of registration or transfer so long as the application for registration or transfer is made 90 days or less from the date of the valid vehicle inspection (Sections 307.175 and 307.350);

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community and ensure privacy rights. Winners of the congressional medal of honor should get license plates without charge.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Eigel and the Missouri Department of Revenue.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.