

HCS SB 371 -- TRANSPORTATION

SPONSOR: Eigel

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 11 to 2.

PORT AUTHORITY

Currently, notes and bonds issued by port authorities are tax exempt. This bill also exempts sales and leases of real or personal property made by or to any port authority involving the use of such tax exempt bonds from taxation (Section 68.040, RSMo).

LEASE OR RENTING MOTOR VEHICLES

This bill requires any person, company, or corporation engaged in the business of renting or leasing motor vehicles, trailers, boats, or outboard motors, which are to be used exclusively for rental or lease purposes, and not for resale, to apply to the Director of the Department of Revenue for authority to operate as a leasing or rental company and pay an annual fee of \$250 for such authority.

Additionally, every applicant to be a lease or rental company will furnish with the application a corporate surety bond or irrevocable letter of credit issued by any state or federal financial institution in the penal sum of \$100,000, on a form approved by the department. The bond or irrevocable letter of credit will be conditioned upon the lease or rental company complying with the provisions of any statutes applicable to lease or rental companies, and the bond will be an indemnity for any loss sustained by reason of the acts of the person bonded when such acts constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the lease or rental license. The bond will be executed in the name of the State of Missouri for the benefit of all aggrieved parties or the irrevocable letter of credit shall name the State of Missouri as the beneficiary; except that the aggregate liability of the surety or financial institution to the aggrieved parties shall, in no event, exceed the amount of the bond or irrevocable letter of credit. The proceeds of the bond or irrevocable letter of credit shall be paid upon receipt by the department of a final judgment from a Missouri court against the principal and in favor of an aggrieved party.

Any person, company, or corporation engaged in the business of renting or leasing 3,500 or more motor vehicles which are to be used exclusively for rental or leasing purposes and not for resale, and that has applied to the Director of the Department of Revenue for authority to operate as a leasing company may also operate as a registered fleet owner.

The Director of the Department of Revenue may issue license plates to a fleet owner after he or she completes an application, as designed by the director, and payment of an annual fee of \$360 for the first 10 plates and \$36 for each additional plate for fleet vehicles. The payment and issuance of such plates shall be in lieu of registering each motor vehicle with the director as otherwise provided by law. These motor vehicles will not be exempt from safety and emission inspections required by law, but these inspections will not be required to be presented to the director.

Registrations for fleets are on an annual or biannual basis. If an applicant elects a biennial registration, the annual fleet license plate fees are doubled and the agent fee is collected in an amount equal to the fee for two years.

Prior to the issuance of fleet license plates, the applicant must provide proof of insurance as required under current law.

The authority of a recipient of a lease or rental company license issued by the director, as prescribed in Section 144.070, to operate as a fleet owner as provided in this section shall expire on January 1st of the licensure period.

A lease or rental company operating fleet license plates issued under these provisions shall make available, upon request, to the Director of the Department of Revenue and all Missouri law enforcement agencies any corresponding vehicle and registration information that may be requested as specified by the rule (Sections 144.070 and 304.281).

EMERGENCY BRIDGE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT FUND

This bill 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).

TURN LEFT ON RED LIGHT WHEN TURNING ONTO A ONE-WAY STREET

This bill allows that when following certain criteria drivers may turn left after stopping at a red light for one-way streets (Sections 300.115 and 304.281).

RECREATIONAL TRAILER REGISTRATION

This bill specifies that registrations for recreational trailers, as defined in the bill, shall be payable in the month of May. Any

fee that would have been due in December of 2019 shall be deferred until May of 2020 (Section 288.130).

PURPLE HEART LICENSE PLATES

Currently, Purple Heart recipients can receive specialty Purple Heart license plates. This bill would allow for the issuance of two sets of these specialty license plates without fees.

Additionally, in the event of the death of a Purple Heart recipient, the co-owner of the motor vehicle who was also the spouse of the deceased, qualified person may use and renew the license plates until he or she remarries or, if they do not remarry, for the remainder of their life (Section 301.451).

DEALER LICENSE PLATES

This bill allows use of specified motor vehicle dealer license plates on cars used by customers while their vehicles are being serviced or repaired by the motor vehicle dealer (Section 301.560).

MISSOURI ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION LICENSE PLATES

This bill authorizes a special license plate with the official lineman emblem of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. The license plate requires an annual \$25 contribution for emblem use to the association which shall be used for lineman training programs and administrative costs. Criteria for the license plate design submitted by the association are specified in the bill. Previously issued special plates will not bear the Lineman emblem unless reauthorized with the \$25 contribution fee.

The bill also authorizes a special license plate with the official lineman emblem of the Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities. The license plate requires an annual \$25 contribution for emblem use to the association which shall be used for lineman training programs and administrative costs. Criteria for the license plate design submitted by the association are specified in the bill. Previously issued special plates will not bear the Lineman emblem unless reauthorized with the \$25 contribution fee (Sections 301.3066 and 301.3067).

BOY SCOUTS LICENSE PLATES

Currently, an organization is required to send a list of at least 200 potential applicants who plan to purchase a specialty plate before such a specialty plate will be issued. This bill removes that requirement for Boy Scouts of America specialty licensing

plates (Section 301.3139).

DEMOLAY LICENSE PLATES

This bill authorizes a specialty plate designed by Missouri DeMolay for use on specified vehicles that are non-commercial. The department may charge a fee of \$5,000 to produce such plates and a fee of \$15 per license plate. Signature collection is not required to authorize these specialty plates (Section 301.3148).

MEDIAL ALERT NOTATION ON DRIVER'S LICENSES

This bill allows a resident of Missouri to have a medical alert notation placed on his or her driver's license to indicate that they have an emergency medical card in their possession. Specific medical conditions will be listed on the medical card. A waiver for the release of medical information is required and an applicant for the notation must provide a diagnosis from a physician or psychologist. Parental consent is required for anyone under 18 years of age. The state highway patrol will receive the medical information from the Department of Revenue for entry into the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System and this fact is made known in the application and consent requests.

This provision has a delayed effective date of July 30, 2020 (Section 302.205).

CDL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

This bill requires any department or entity providing CDL training to persons preparing to apply for CDL licenses under the provisions of Sections 302.700 to 302.780, to provide reasonable accommodations for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Specific requirements shall be set by rules promulgated by the Director of the Department of Revenue (Section 302.720).

TOWING TASK FORCE

This bill creates the "Towing Task Force" consisting of 13 members, including two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker and two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem, as specified in the bill. The task force will make recommendations on overcharges, customer complaints, and the process for nonconsensual towing used by law enforcement. A report to the General Assembly must be submitted March 1, 2021, and the task force will expire on January 1, 2022 (Section 304.153).

DRIVER'S LICENSE REVOCATION

This bill allows the Director of the Department of Revenue to order the revocation of a driver's license upon notification by the investigative officer that the license holder was involved in a physical accident involving a highway worker within a designated construction zone or work zone.

An individual whose driver's license is revoked may seek reinstatement by either taking and passing the written and driving portions of the driver's license examination, in which case the individual's driver's license is immediately reinstated, or petitioning for a hearing before a circuit division or associate division of the court in the county in which the work zone accident occurred. The individual may request that the court issue an order staying the revocation until such time as the petition for review can be heard.

The Department of Revenue administrative adjudication to reinstate a driver's license that was revoked and any evidence provided to the department related to such adjudication cannot be produced by subpoena or any other means and made available as evidence in any other administrative action, civil case, or criminal prosecution.

The bill does not prevent the department from providing information to the system authorized under 49 U.S.C. Section 31309, or any successor federal law, pertaining to the licensing, identification, and disqualification of operators of commercial motor vehicles (Sections 304.580 and 304.585).

MUD FLAPS

This bill requires dump trucks to be equipped with mud flaps that have up to 12 inches of ground clearance, instead of the eight inches required for other vehicles (Section 307.015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the HCS is a combination of bills regarding transportation filed this session.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Eigel.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.