

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 624

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BLACK.

1700H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To repeal sections 304.001 and 304.044, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the operation of platoons on Missouri roads, with a penalty provision.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 304.001 and 304.044, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 304.001 and 304.044, to read as follows:

304.001. As used in this chapter and chapter 307, the following terms shall mean:

2 (1) "Abandoned property", any unattended motor vehicle, trailer, all-terrain vehicle,  
3 outboard motor or vessel removed or subject to removal from public or private property as  
4 provided in sections 304.155 and 304.157, whether or not operational. For any vehicle towed  
5 from the scene of an accident at the request of law enforcement and not retrieved by the  
6 vehicle's owner within five days of the accident, the agency requesting the tow shall be  
7 required to write an abandoned property report or a crime inquiry and inspection report;

8 (2) "Commercial vehicle enforcement officers", employees of the Missouri state  
9 highway patrol who are not members of the patrol but who are appointed by the  
10 superintendent of the highway patrol to enforce the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to  
11 commercial vehicles, trailers, special mobile equipment and drivers of such vehicles;

12 (3) "Commercial vehicle inspectors", employees of the Missouri state highway patrol  
13 who are not members of the patrol but who are appointed by the superintendent of the  
14 highway patrol to supervise or operate permanent or portable weigh stations in the  
15 enforcement of commercial vehicle laws;

16 (4) "Commission", the state highways and transportation commission;

17 (5) "Department", the state transportation department;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 (6) "Freeway", a divided state highway with four or more lanes, with no access to the  
19 throughways except the established interchanges and with no at-grade crossings;

20 (7) "Interstate highway", a state highway included in the national system of interstate  
21 highways located within the boundaries of Missouri, as officially designated or as may be  
22 hereafter designated by the state highways and transportation commission with the approval  
23 of the Secretary of Transportation, pursuant to Title 23, U.S.C., as amended;

24 (8) "Members of the patrol", the superintendent, lieutenant colonel, majors, captains,  
25 director of radio, lieutenants, sergeants, corporals and patrolmen of the Missouri state  
26 highway patrol;

27 (9) "Off-road vehicle", any vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on  
28 or immediately over land, water, ice, snow, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain  
29 without benefit of a road or trail:

30 (a) Including, without limitation, the following:

31 a. Jeeps;

32 b. All-terrain vehicles;

33 c. Dune buggies;

34 d. Multiwheel drive or low-pressure tire vehicles;

35 e. Vehicle using an endless belt, or tread or treads, or a combination of tread and low-  
36 pressure tires;

37 f. Motorcycles, trail bikes, minibikes and related vehicles;

38 g. Any other means of transportation deriving power from any source other than  
39 muscle or wind; and

40 (b) Excluding the following:

41 a. Registered motorboats;

42 b. Aircraft;

43 c. Any military, fire or law enforcement vehicle;

44 d. Farm-type tractors and other self-propelled equipment for harvesting and  
45 transporting farm or forest products;

46 e. Any vehicle being used for farm purposes, earth moving, or construction while  
47 being used for such purposes on the work site;

48 f. Self-propelled lawnmowers, or lawn or garden tractors, or golf carts, while being  
49 used exclusively for their designed purpose;

50 g. Any vehicle being used for the purpose of transporting a handicapped person;

51 h. Electric bicycles, as defined in section 301.010;

52 (10) "Person", any natural person, corporation, or other legal entity;

53 (11) "**Platoon**", a group of individual motor vehicles utilizing vehicle-to-vehicle  
54 **communications to travel in a unified manner at electronically coordinated speeds;**

55 (12) "Right-of-way", the entire width of land between the boundary lines of a state  
56 highway, including any roadway;

57 [~~(12)~~] (13) "Roadway", that portion of a state highway ordinarily used for vehicular  
58 travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder;

59 [~~(13)~~] (14) "State highway", a highway constructed or maintained by the state  
60 highways and transportation commission with the aid of state funds or United States  
61 government funds, or any highway included by authority of law in the state highway system,  
62 including all right-of-way;

63 [~~(14)~~] (15) "Towing company", any person or entity which tows, removes or stores  
64 abandoned property;

65 [~~(15)~~] (16) "Urbanized area", an area with a population of fifty thousand or more  
66 designated by the Bureau of the Census, within boundaries to be fixed by the state highways  
67 and transportation commission and local officials in cooperation with each other and  
68 approved by the Secretary of Transportation. The boundary of an urbanized area shall, at a  
69 minimum, encompass the entire urbanized area as designed by the Bureau of the Census.

304.044. 1. The following terms as used in this section shall mean:

2 (1) "Bus", any vehicle or motor car designed and used for the purpose of carrying  
3 more than seven persons;

4 (2) "Truck", any vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer or semitrailer, or any combination  
5 thereof, propelled or drawn by mechanical power and designed or used in the transportation  
6 of property upon the highways.

7 2. The driver of any truck or bus, when traveling upon a public highway of this state  
8 outside of a business or residential district, shall not follow within three hundred feet of  
9 another such vehicle; provided, the provisions of this section shall not be construed to prevent  
10 the overtaking and passing, by any such truck or bus, of another similar vehicle.

11 3. **The following-distance provisions of this section shall not apply to a nonlead  
12 vehicle in a platoon, as such term is defined in section 304.001.**

13 4. Any person who shall violate the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty  
14 of a class C misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished accordingly.

15 5. **The highways and transportation commission is authorized to promulgate  
16 administrative rules that are reasonable and necessary to implement platooning. Any  
17 rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under  
18 the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and  
19 is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This  
20 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the  
21 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to  
22 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of**

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23 **rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2023, shall be**  
24 **invalid and void.**

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