

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 996

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BLACK.

1902H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 226.796 and 620.2200, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to Route 66 in Missouri.

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

Section A. Sections 226.796 and 620.2200, RSMo, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 226.796, 226.804, and 620.2200, to read as follows:

226.796. United States Highway 66 is hereby designated as a historic highway. The department of transportation may place suitable markings and informational signs along United States Highway 66. Such signs shall consist of the usual United States highway sign with the words "Historic Route 66" printed on the face of the sign. ~~[The department shall not use state moneys for such signs, but may accept donations from private sources or federal grants to construct and erect signs described in this section.]~~

226.804. 1. The provisions of this section shall be known and may be referred to as the "Route 66 Signage Maintenance and Enhancement Act of Missouri".

2. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Alignment", the specific path or route taken by Route 66 during a given time period. Changes in alignment reflect shifts due to road improvements, bypasses, or realignments over decades;

(2) "Centennial celebration", events, programs, and initiatives commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of Route 66 in 2026, highlighting its historical and cultural importance;

(3) "Department", the department of transportation;

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.

11 (4) "Historical roadside features", iconic landmarks, attractions, and
12 infrastructure elements associated with Route 66, including neon signs, motels,
13 bridges, and service stations;

14 (5) "Right-of-way", the publicly owned land on which highways and roads are
15 built, including areas managed by the department of transportation, municipalities, and
16 counties;

17 (6) "Route 66", the historic highway originally designated in 1926, running
18 through the state from St. Louis city to the state line of Kansas west of Joplin,
19 encompassing various alignments over its history;

20 (7) "Signage program", a coordinated effort led by the department of
21 transportation to design, install, maintain, and enhance directional, interpretive, and
22 supplemental signage for Route 66 travelers;

23 (8) "Supplemental signage", additional signs placed alongside standard markers
24 to provide historical context, alignment, and interpretive information about specific
25 locations or features on or near Route 66;

26 (9) "Theft prevention mechanisms", measures implemented to deter the theft of
27 Route 66 signs, including tamper-proof fasteners, special coatings, or micro markings
28 such as "REPRODUCTION" to reduce desirability.

29 3. There is hereby established within the department of transportation the
30 "Route 66 Maintenance and Enhancement Program" to maintain and repair existing
31 Route 66 supplemental signage across the state. The program may be expanded to
32 include enhancement of Route 66 signage, including expanding current Route 66
33 signage beyond rights-of-way to include county and city roads. Such additional signage
34 shall highlight historical roadside features. Moneys allocated to the program as
35 provided in subsection 8 of this section shall be used by the department of
36 transportation to maintain and repair existing supplemental signage and may be used
37 to design, install, and maintain additional supplemental signage on Route 66. Signs
38 shall comply with the standards contained in the Department of Transportation's
39 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

40 4. No later than January 31, 2026, the department shall establish guidelines for
41 uniformity of supplemental signage design in coordination with the Missouri Route 66
42 centennial commission established under section 620.2200. The department shall
43 collaborate with counties and municipalities to implement the installation and
44 maintenance of such signage. The replacement of existing signage and installation of
45 new signage shall be completed no later than May 30, 2026. The department shall
46 monitor and maintain such signage as part of its regular infrastructure programs.

47 **5. The program shall include measures to implement theft prevention measures**
48 **for the signage, including anti-theft hardware installation and discreet**
49 **"REPRODUCTION" markings.**

50 **6. The department shall seek guidance from the Route 66 Association of**
51 **Missouri with respect to historical context and expertise on signage placement and shall**
52 **seek assistance from the Association with respect to public outreach and education**
53 **campaigns.**

54 **7. Beginning January 1, 2030, and every five years thereafter, the department of**
55 **transportation shall conduct a comprehensive review of Route 66 supplemental signage**
56 **costs including, but not limited to, materials, labor, and maintenance requirements. The**
57 **department shall submit an annual report to the general assembly beginning January 1,**
58 **2031, outlining proposed budget adjustments based on inflation, technological**
59 **advancements, and program expansion needs.**

60 **8. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Route 66 Supplemental**
61 **Signage Fund", which shall consist of appropriations of the general assembly, federal**
62 **and state grants, and private donations. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the**
63 **fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve**
64 **disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in**
65 **this fund shall be used solely as provided in this section.**

66 **(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys**
67 **remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the**
68 **general revenue fund.**

69 **(3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as**
70 **other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be**
71 **credited to the fund.**

72 **9. The department may establish a program to provide matching grants for local**
73 **governments and organizations to address specific signage needs or enhancements**
74 **within their jurisdictions.**

75 **10. The director of the department of transportation shall promulgate any rules**
76 **necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as**
77 **that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in**
78 **this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the**
79 **provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter**
80 **536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly**
81 **pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul**
82 **a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority**
83 **and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2025, shall be invalid and void.**

620.2200. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Route 66 Centennial Commission Act".

2. The commission shall be composed of eighteen members who reflect the interests, history, and importance of the communities along Route 66 in Missouri. The members shall be appointed as follows:

(1) Two public members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(2) Two public members appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;

(3) Two public members appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate;

(4) Two public members appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

(5) Three public members appointed by the governor, one of whom shall serve as chairperson; and

(6) Seven ex officio members as follows:

(a) The governor, or his or her designee;

(b) The director of the department of transportation, or his or her designee;

(c) The director of the department of natural resources, or his or her designee;

(d) The director of the division of tourism, or his or her designee;

(e) The director of the department of economic development, or his or her designee;

(f) The secretary of state, or his or her designee; and

(g) The president of the Route 66 Association of Missouri, or his or her designee.

3. An ex officio member of the commission vacates his or her position on the commission if he or she ceases to hold the position that qualifies the person for service on the commission.

4. (1) A public member of the commission is not entitled to compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for the travel expenses incurred by the member while transacting commission business.

(2) An ex officio member's service on the commission is an additional duty of the underlying position that qualifies the member for service on the commission. The entitlement of an ex officio member to compensation or reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while transacting commission business is governed by the law that applies to the member's service in that underlying position, and any payment to the member for either purpose shall be made from an appropriation that may be used for the purpose and is available to the state agency that the member serves in that underlying position.

5. (1) The commission shall meet at least quarterly at the times and places in this state that the commission designates.

(2) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum for transacting commission business.

38 6. The duties of the commission shall be to:

39 (1) Plan and sponsor official Route 66 centennial events, programs, and activities in
40 the state;

41 (2) Encourage the development of programs designed to involve all citizens in
42 activities that commemorate Route 66 centennial events in the state; and

43 (3) To the best of the commission's ability, make available to the public information
44 on Route 66 centennial events happening throughout the state.

45 7. Subject to appropriation, the office of tourism shall provide administrative and
46 other support to the commission.

47 8. (1) The commission may accept monetary gifts and grants from any public or
48 private source, to be held in the Missouri Route 66 centennial commission fund. The
49 "Missouri Route 66 Centennial Commission Fund" is created as a nonappropriated trust fund
50 to be held outside of the state treasury, with the state treasurer as custodian. The fund shall be
51 expended ~~[solely]~~ for the use of the commission in performing the commission's powers and
52 duties under this section **and may be used for Route 66 supplemental signage**
53 **maintenance and enhancement as provided under section 226.804.**

54 (2) The commission may also accept in-kind gifts.

55 9. Before June 30, ~~[2027]~~ **2030**, a final report on the commission's activities shall be
56 delivered to the governor. The commission shall be dissolved on June 30, 2027, and any
57 moneys remaining in the Missouri Route 66 centennial commission fund shall be deposited in
58 the general revenue fund.

59 10. The provisions of this section terminate on December 1, ~~[2027]~~ **2030**.

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