

HB 74 -- ANIMAL-DRIVEN VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Taylor (48)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Rural Issues by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill changes the requirements for lighting for animal-driven vehicles after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and at any other time "when lighted lamps are required", as defined by law, to the following:

- (1) At least one lamp displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 1000 feet to the front of the animal-driven vehicle; and
- (2) Two lamps displaying red light visible from a distance of not less than 1000 feet to the rear of the animal-driven vehicle or, as an alternative, one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 1000 feet to the rear and two reflectors visible from all distances of 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when illuminated by the lawful lower beams of head lamps.

Additionally, a person who operates an animal-driven vehicle at all times must display one yellow flashing lamp that is visible from a distance of not less than 1000 feet and that is mounted on the topmost portion of the rear of the vehicle. The animal-driven vehicle also must display at least one of the following:

- (1) A slow-moving vehicle emblem mounted in accordance with Section 307.127, RSMo;
- (2) Reflective material complying with rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Department of Public Safety that is visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the rear when illuminated by the lawful lower beams of head lamps; or
- (3) Both a slow-moving vehicle emblem and reflective material.

The Director must adopt rules establishing standards and specifications for the position and mounting of the lamps and reflective material required under this section. The rules can only permit the reflective tape to be red, amber, white, or silver in color.

The provisions regarding visible lighting requirements for animal-driven vehicles do not apply to the operator of any animal-driven agricultural equipment who is not transporting any livestock or to

a person other than the operator. No operator can operate animal-driven agricultural equipment unless it is equipped with and displays the slow-moving vehicle emblem mounted in accordance with Section 307.127.

This bill is the same as HB 2192 (2024).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would increase roadway safety in rural areas of the State, especially those areas with larger Amish communities, by increasing the visibility of the animal drawn vehicles. The current lighting requirements are not sufficient to protect motorists and those in the animal drawn vehicles at night.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Taylor; Craig Redmon; Mark Fiegenbaum.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.