

HJR 170 -- DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SPONSOR: Cook

Currently, the Highways and Transportation Commission is in charge of the Department of Transportation and the state highway system. Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment will place the Department of Transportation under the authority of the Governor rather than the Commission, and the Department will assume the responsibilities of the Commission.

This amendment specifies that the Director and Chief Engineer of the Department of Transportation will be appointed by the Governor, with qualifications to be fixed by law, and that the Highways and Transportation Commission will advise the Governor regarding transportation matters and the Department of Transportation. The amendment also exempts the Director from the constitutional requirement that selection and removal of Department of Transportation employees be without regard to political affiliation.

This bill is similar to HJR 32 (2025).