



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

|  |                               |  |      |
|--|-------------------------------|--|------|
| BILL NUMBER:<br><b>HB 3216</b>   |                               | DATE:<br><b>4/15/2026</b>                |      |
| COMMITTEE:<br><b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>  |                               |  |      |
| <b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES |                               |  |      |
| <b>WITNESS NAME</b>  |                               |  |      |
| <b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>   |                               |  |      |
| WITNESS NAME:<br><b>SARAH BERRY</b>  |                               | PHONE NUMBER:                            |      |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:  |                               | TITLE:                                   |      |
| ADDRESS:   |                               |  |      |
| CITY:  |                               | STATE:                                   | ZIP: |
| EMAIL:   | ATTENDANCE:<br><b>Written</b> | SUBMIT DATE:<br><b>4/15/2026 6:47 AM</b> |      |
| <b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>  |                               |  |      |

This bill designates a commemorative day recognizing passenger rail in Missouri.

On its face, it appears simple. But the policy question is not about this one designation—it is about what it represents and where this type of recognition belongs.

When the legislature creates statutory days of recognition without a defined standard, it establishes a precedent with no limiting principle.

Every cause, every program, and every industry can make a valid case for similar recognition. Over time, statute becomes a growing collection of symbolic provisions rather than a focused body of law.

That is the first issue—scope.

The second issue is function.

This designation is not purely commemorative.

It highlights a specific mode of transportation and frames it in terms of economic development and public benefit.

That moves it beyond recognition and into policy signaling.

When that signaling is placed in statute, it begins to blur the line between symbolic acknowledgment and legislative endorsement.

Statute is meant to govern. It is where we establish enforceable rules and operational frameworks.

Symbolic recognition—especially when tied to promotion of a specific system or priority—belongs elsewhere.

And there is already a mechanism for that: executive proclamation.

Commemorative days can be recognized, promoted, and celebrated without embedding them permanently into statute. That preserves flexibility and avoids turning law into a vehicle for symbolic or policy messaging.

**Without a clear standard, and without respecting that distinction, each designation is not a standalone act. It is part of a growing pattern that expands statute into areas it was not designed to hold.**

**If the intent is recognition, the tool already exists. The question is whether it belongs in statute at all.**

**Legislative Notice:**

**Let the record reflect:**

**This legislation establishes a statutory designation without defined criteria or limits for future recognitions.**

**It contributes to the expansion of symbolic and promotional provisions within statute that carry no regulatory function.**

**It introduces policy signaling into statute by promoting a specific mode of transportation through commemorative language.**

**It addresses a purpose that can be achieved through executive proclamation rather than codification into law.**

**For these reasons, I stand in opposition.**

**When recognition becomes promotion, and promotion becomes statute, we stop writing law and start writing messaging.**



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| <b>WITNESS NAME</b>  |             |   |                      |
| <b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>  |             |   |                      |
| WITNESS NAME:<br><b>ALEX SCHROEDER</b>   |             | PHONE NUMBER:<br><b>573-751-7476</b>        |                      |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:<br><b>MODOT</b>  |             | TITLE:<br><b>ADMINISTRATOR OF RAILROADS</b> |                      |
| ADDRESS:<br><b>PO BOX 270</b>  |             |   |                      |
| CITY:<br><b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>   |             | STATE:<br><b>MO</b>                         | ZIP:<br><b>65101</b> |
| EMAIL:   | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE:<br><b>4/15/2026 12:00 AM</b>   |                      |
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