



January 16, 2004

The GA Capitol Report

Governmental Affairs 573/522-1924

OPEN CONTAINER BILL FILED: Legislation to ban open containers of alcohol in motor vehicles has been filed by Rep. Cynthia L. Davis, R-O'Fallon. House Bill 1121 would prohibit the possession and consumption of open containers of alcohol in most vehicles on state highways and rights of way.

Recreational motor vehicles and tour busses would be exempt from the law.

The open-container proposal is part of the MHTC's legislative agenda this session. An open-container law could prevent MoDOT from having to transfer federal highway-construction funds to highway-safety programs. Federal law requires states that have not passed strict open-container legislation to transfer a percentage of their construction funds to safety programs.

Since 2001, MoDOT has had to transfer approximately \$23.8 million in federal highway funds to safety programs. The penalty could continue every year until open-container legislation is approved.

MORE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION FILED: Several more transportation-related bills have been filed for the 2004 legislative session. Those bills include:

- **House Bill 1106**, sponsored by Rep. Larry Crawford, R-Centertown, that would change the way MoDOT's chief counsel is selected. The director of MoDOT, instead of the members of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, would choose the department's chief counsel.
- **House Bill 1107**, sponsored by Crawford, would permit owners of property adjacent to transportation districts to petition to be added to the district.
- **House Bill 1109**, sponsored by Crawford, would require the operators of motorcycles under 21 years of age to wear protective helmets.
- **House Bill 112**, sponsored by Crawford, would establish regulations for house movers.
- **Senate Bill 1031**, sponsored by Sen. Joan Bray, D-St. Louis, proposes several measures to improve bicycle safety.
- **House Bill 1142**, sponsored by Rep. Michael Daus, D-St. Louis, that would allow certain low-speed vehicles to be operated on state highways that have a posted speed limit less than 35 miles per hour.
- **House Joint Resolution 45**, sponsored by Rep. Brian Yates, R-Lee's Summit, that proposes a change to the Missouri constitution that would prohibit the transfer of state

highway funds to state agencies other than MoDOT and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

NEW SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTED: Sen. Victor Callahan, D-Independence, has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Senate Transportation Committee. The vacancy resulted from the death last year of Sen. Ronnie DePasco.

Members of the Senate Transportation Committee members are:

- Sen. Jon Dolan, R-Lake St. Louis, (chairman)
- Sen. Delbert Scott, R-Lowry City (vice-chairman)
- Sen. John Cauthorn, R-Chillicothe
- Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington
- Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin
- Sen. John Russell, R-Lebanon
- Sen. Joan Bray, D-St. Louis
- Sen. Rita Days, -St. Louis
- Sen. Wayne Goode, D-St. Louis
- Sen. Steve Stoll, D-Festus
- Sen. Victor Callahan, D-Independence

Members of the House Transportation Committee are:

- Rep. Larry Crawford, R-Centertown (chairman)
- Rep. Charles Schlottach, R-Owensville (vice-chairman)
- Rep. Jim Avery, R-Crestwood
- Dan Bishop, D-Kansas City
- Rep. Lanie Black, R-Charleston
- Rep. Michael Daus, D-St. Louis
- Rep. Gary Dusenberg, R-Blue Springs
- Rep. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington
- Rep. Tom Green, D-St. Charles
- Rep. Wayne Henke, D-Troy
- Rep. Robert Hilgemann, D-St. Louis
- Rep. Robin Wright Jones, D-St. Louis
- Rep. Gayle Kingery, R-Poplar Bluff
- Rep. J.C. Kuessner, D-Eminence
- Rep. Brad Lager, R-Maryville
- Rep. Ryan Glennon McKenna, D-Barnhart
- Rep. Rex Rector, R-Harrisonville
- Rep. Joe Smith, R-St. Charles
- Rep. Kevin Threlkeld, R-Washington
- Rep. Terry Young, D-Independence

HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Committee: Senate Commerce and the Environment

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Senate Lounge

Bills to be heard:

SB 988 (Steelman)

Waste tire fees/clean up/removal contracts

SB 876 (Goode)

Waste Tires

SB 949 (Steelman)

Relating to environmental hearings

Committee: Senate Transportation

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: Senate Committee Room 1

Bills to be heard:

SB 874 (Caskey)

Relating to Missouri driver's and non-driver's licenses

Committee: House Agriculture

Time: Upon Adjournment

Location: Hearing Room 1

Bills to be heard:

HB 980 (Myers)

Impact Reporting/ DNR Rulemaking

* possible executive session

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Time: 5 p.m.

Location: Senate Lounge

Bills to be heard:

SB 836 (Caskey)

Private car ad valorem tax credit

SB 887 (Goode)

Relating to sales and use taxes

* possible executive session

