



July 15, 2004

The GA Capitol Report

Governmental Affairs 573/522-1924

JULY 14 WAS DEADLINE FOR GOVERNOR TO SIGN LEGISLATION INTO LAW:

July 14 was the last day for Gov. Bob Holden to sign legislation passed during the 2004 legislative session. The Missouri General Assembly approved some 200 different legislative proposals this year. Only a handful of the more controversial legislative proposals were actually vetoed by the governor.

The following is a list of some of the more important pieces of transportation legislation that will go into affect Aug. 28, 2004.

Senate Bill 1233

This bill contains dozens of transportation-related issues. While many of the issues address motor vehicle laws, a number of them will have an impact on MoDOT. Specifically, SB 1233:

- Allows commercial motor vehicles to be registered at the beginning of any quarter of the year. Current law requires commercial motor vehicles to be registered only during the final quarter of the year. The bill also will allow MoDOT's motor carrier division to issue partial-year registrations. That way when a motor carrier company adds vehicles to its fleet, all registrations will come due at the same time.
- Allows the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) to self-insure its leased vehicles. Current regulations require the department to purchase insurance through the leasing agency. MoDOT self-insures the vehicles it owns and wanted to do the same for the vehicles the department leases. This initiative could save the department about \$30,000 per year.
- Clarifies legislation approved in 2003 that determines the way members of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission are selected to serve as chair and vice chair.
- Requires the MoDOT director to hire the department's chief counsel with the commission's consent. Currently, the commission appoints the chief counsel.
- Revises Missouri's commercial drivers license laws to comply with federal law. This federal mandate will prevent the state from losing about \$40 million per year in federal funds.

- Regulates the use of traffic signal preemption signal systems, devices used to control traffic signals at intersections.
- Requires motorists to turn on their headlights during inclement weather.

Senate Bill 870

This bill prohibits billboards with adult cabaret or sexually oriented messages from being located within one mile of a state highway. If the adult cabaret or sexually oriented business is located within one mile of the state highway, the business can display a maximum of two exterior signs. The signs can list the name, address, telephone number and operating hours of the business and state that minors are not allowed on the premises.

Signs existing before the law goes into effect can remain in place for three years before they have to be removed.

Memorial Highway Names

The following memorial highway names were approved:

- **Senate Bill 767:**
 - Names a portion of Interstate 44 in Webster County as the Edwin P. Hubble Memorial Highway.
- **House Bill 826:**
 - Names a portion of State Highway A in Wright County the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Highway.
 - Names a bridge on Highway 30 in Franklin County the Brown-Stinson Bridge in honor of Judge Michael Brown and Wayne Stinson.
 - Names a portion of Interstate 70 the U.S. Submarine Veterans' Memorial Highway.
- **Senate Bill 1006:**
 - Names a section of Highway 364 in St. Louis County as the Buzz Westfall Memorial Highway.
- **House Bill 1029:**
 - Names a portion of State Highway J in Lincoln County the Veterans Highway.
 - Names a portion of Interstate 70 the U.S. Submarine Veterans' Memorial Highway.
 - Names a section of Highway 67 in St. Francois County the Trooper Jesse R. Jenkins Memorial Highway.
 - Names a section of Highway 67 in St. Francois County the Deputy Stephen R. Ziegler Memorial Highway.
- **House Bill 1442:**
 - Names a section of Highway 51 in Perry County as the Thomas G. Tucker Memorial Highway.
- **House Bill 1149:**
 - Names an I-44 bridge in Phelps County the Trooper Mike L. Newton Memorial Bridge.

- **House Bill 960:**
 - Names a section of Highway 60 in Greene County as the Trooper Russell Harper Memorial Highway.
 - Names a section of Highway 54 in Cole County the Trooper Dennis H. Marriott Memorial Highway.
 - Names a bridge on Highway 7, crossing over Highway B in Cass County, the Trooper Wayne W. Allman Memorial Bridge.
 - Names a bridge on Highway 30 in Franklin County the Brown-Stinson Bridge after Judge Michael Brown and Wayne Stinson.

For a full listing of all bills signed into law go to Gov. Holden's web site at www.governor.mo.gov or call Governmental Affairs at 573.522.1924.

INTERIM MULTIMODAL COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST PUBLIC HEARING: The Joint Interim Committee on Multimodal Transportation Services held its first meeting on July 7 in the Capitol. This legislative committee, consisting of five House and five Senate members, has been charged with conducting a comprehensive analysis of Missouri's multimodal transportation services.

Specifically, the committee has been charged with:

1. Creating a long-term vision for state supported multimodal transportation services in Missouri;
2. Formulating multimodal transportation policies and strategies that will help Missouri meet future challenges and capitalize on opportunities;
3. Exploring how Missouri can better unite the various modes of transportation;
4. Providing recommendations on how to reduce dependence on state general revenue by increasing efficiencies, exploring dedicated funding sources and establishing local community support;
5. Suggesting ways to establish public/private partnerships with railroads to make infrastructure improvements that will reduce track congestion and improve on-time train performance;
6. Looking at ways to increase multimodal service use by stabilizing and improving services and increasing promotional efforts; and
7. Reviewing and exploring any other issues that might improve multimodal transportation services.

MoDOT's Interim Director Dave Snider testified before the committee and stated how important all modes of transportation are to the state's economic development. Snider expressed his concerns about the decrease in barge traffic on the Missouri River and how important it is to make sure river travel remains a viable option for transporting goods. Snider also stated that Amtrak and other transportation modes have a viable future in Missouri as long as state funding is available. He said MoDOT staff is committed to working with the committee to ensure it meets its overall goals and objectives.

MoDOT's Multimodal Operations Director Brian Weiler gave a power point presentation that summarized the state's various multimodal operations and the financial challenges facing those operations.

MoDOT's Senior Transportation Planner Jeff White testified that MoDOT is conducting freight and passenger studies. The freight study is looking at all modes of transportation, including highways. It will give MoDOT a clearer picture of the freight being moved in, out and through Missouri to properly consider freight industry needs. The passenger study is primarily focusing on transit and is intended to examine the mobility needs of those who don't drive. Both studies should be completed this fall.

MoDOT's Waterways Program Manager Sherrie Martin informed the committee that decisions regarding river issues are made at the federal level. However, all state departments come together in a unified stance on the issues. Martin reported the Department of Natural Resources serves as the governor's liaison on river issues.

The committee's questions primarily focused on Amtrak funding and operations, Missouri ports, Metro-St. Louis and elderly transportation.

Sen. John Griesheimer, committee co-chair, said the committee plans to invite David Gunn, Amtrak's national president, to testify at a future hearing. He also said the committee would be touring various ports and other multimodal transportation sites throughout the state. Stops include Warrensburg, Washington and Cape Girardeau, with other locations to be determined.

Senate members of the Joint Interim Committee on Multimodal Transportation Services are John Griesheimer (R-Washington), co-chair; Michael Gibbons (R-Kirkwood); Carl Vogel (R-Jefferson City); Joan Bray (D-St. Louis) and Charles Wheeler (D-Kansas City). House members are David Pearce (R-Warrensburg), co-chair; Lanie Black (R-Charleston); Kevin Threlkeld (R-Washington); Tom Villa (D-St. Louis) and Wayne Henke (D-Troy).

The committee's final report is due to the General Assembly by Jan. 15, 2005.

The next hearing date has not yet been set.