



The Stouffer Report: *Improving Transportation*

Among the more important bills making their way through the Legislature this year is one related to transportation. Amazingly enough, it started as a bill addressing temporary license plates. Since then, it has become an omnibus transportation bill.

[House Bill 683](#) would make needed changes to several aspects of transportation in Missouri. More than that, it would change some things that are more vital to the folks in rural Missouri than anything else, and that is why I am proud to have handled the bill in the Senate. It is an extension of a bill I introduced — [Senate Bill 58](#) — which contains most of the same provisions as the House bill.

Some common-sense features have been added to House Bill 683. One of these would allow car dealers to handle titling, registration and sales tax collection on a purchase. This would eliminate the need to drive from the dealer to the nearest license office and take care of the final paperwork and check-writing involved in buying a new car or truck. This would be especially nice on a weekend, so you would not have to wait until the following Monday to finish the deal.

There are also a couple of additions related to commercial driver's licenses (CDLs). If someone in the military is driving a vehicle for military purposes, he or she does not have to have a CDL. This would change existing law. Another CDL change would help farmers. Right now, any family member of a farmer can drive without a CDL within 100 miles of their farm. This bill would extend the range to 150 miles.

House Bill 683 also addresses what is referred to as

-  Home
-  Recent Topics
-  Local News
-  Visit the Capitol
-  My Legislation
-  About Me
-  Podcasts

“dead red.” Sometimes, a person riding a motorcycle or bicycle has to sit in a left turn lane for way too long, which cause a traffic back up. The reason is, there may be a detection mechanism in the lane that senses a car is there and will change the light to green. A bike may not have enough metal on it to set off the detector, which is what causes the delay. Under “dead red,” the person can make the turn on a red light as long as he or she has come to a complete stop, the signal has stayed red for an unreasonable time and there is no traffic coming.

Other aspects of the bill include exempting a vehicle from having to have a safety inspection for the first five years after it was built, which means if you buy a 2009 truck, you will not have to get it inspected until 2014. Vehicles weighing over 24,000 pounds would not be included in the exemption. You would also be allowed to drive a golf cart or motorized wheelchair on a city street, if the city or town you live in passes an ordinance allowing it. The bill would also exempt tractors from following standard licensing regulations when taking part in a parade.

I look forward to the bill being signed by the governor. As of this writing, the Senate and House differences on the bill are being worked out. I believe there are a lot of necessary changes in the bill and it will benefit folks throughout the Show-Me State.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

bstouffer@senate.mo.gov | www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer
State Capitol Building, Room 332, Jefferson City, MO 65101 | (866) 768-3987