

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]

# SENATE BILL NO. 17

90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
1999

S0187.02T

## AN ACT

To repeal section 304.170, RSMo 1994, and section 304.157, RSMo Supp. 1998, relating to motor vehicles, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the same subject.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 304.170, RSMo 1994, and section 304.157, RSMo Supp. 1998, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 304.157 and 304.170, to read as follows:

304.157. 1. If a person abandons property, as defined in section 304.001, on any real property owned by another without the consent of the owner or person in possession of the property, at the request of the person in possession of the real property, any member of the state highway patrol, state water patrol, sheriff, or other law enforcement officer within his jurisdiction may authorize a towing company to remove such abandoned property from the property in the following circumstances:

(1) The abandoned property is left unattended for more than forty-eight hours; or  
(2) In the judgment of a law enforcement officer, the abandoned property constitutes a safety hazard or unreasonably interferes with the use of the real property by the person in possession.

2. The owner of real property or lessee **or property or security manager** in lawful possession of the real property may authorize a towing company to remove abandoned property **or property parked in a restricted or assigned area** without authorization by a law enforcement officer only when the owner, lessee or [agent] **property or security manager** of the real property is present [and]. **A property or security manager must be a full-time**

**EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**employee of a business entity. An authorization to tow under this subsection may be made** only under any of the following circumstances:

(1) There is displayed, in plain view at all entrances to the property, a sign not less than seventeen by twenty-two inches in size, with lettering not less than one inch in height, prohibiting public parking and indicating that unauthorized abandoned property **or property improperly parked in a restricted or assigned area** will be removed at the owner's expense, disclosing the maximum fee for all charges related to towing and storage, and containing the telephone number of the local traffic law enforcement agency where information can be obtained; **or a twenty-four-hour staffed emergency information telephone number, other than the number of a towing company, by which the owner of the abandoned property or improperly parked property may call to receive information regarding the location of such owner's property; or**

(2) The abandoned property is on private property and lacks an engine, transmission, wheels, tires, doors, windshield or any other major part or equipment necessary to operate safely on the highways, the owner or lessee of the private property has notified the city police or county sheriff, as appropriate, and ninety-six hours have elapsed since that notification; or

(3) The abandoned property is left unattended on private property, and the owner, lessee or agent of the real property in lawful possession of real property has notified the appropriate law enforcement agency, and ten days have elapsed since that notification.

3. Pursuant to this section, any owner or lessee in lawful possession of real property that requests a towing company to tow abandoned property without authorization from a law enforcement officer shall within one hour of the tow file an abandoned property report with the appropriate law enforcement agency where the property is located. The report shall contain the following:

(1) The year, model, make and abandoned property identification number of the property **and the owner and any lienholders, if known;**

(2) A description of any damage to the **abandoned** property noted by owner [or lessee], **lessee or property or security manager** in possession of the real property;

(3) The license plate or registration number and the state of issuance, if available;

(4) The physical location of the property and the reason for requesting the property to be towed;

(5) The date the report is completed;

(6) The signature and printed name, **address and phone number** of the owner [or lessee], **lessee or property or security manager** in possession of the real property; [and]

**(7) The towing company's name and address;**

**(8) The signature of the towing operator;**

**[(7)] (9) The name of the law enforcement agency notified of the abandoned property.**

The department of revenue may design and make available to police agencies throughout the state a uniform "Authorization to Tow" form. The form shall contain lines for time, date, location, descriptive information of the vehicle, reason for towing, the tow operator and company and signature of authorizing officer. The cost of the forms shall be determined by the department of revenue. The completed form shall be issued by the authorizing officer to the tow operator for that company's records as proof of authorization to tow a particular vehicle.

4. The law enforcement agency receiving such abandoned property report must record the date the abandoned property report is filed with such agency and within five days of such filing make an inquiry into the national crime information center and any statewide Missouri law enforcement computer system to determine if the abandoned property has been reported as stolen. The law enforcement agency shall enter the information pertaining to the towed property into the statewide enforcement computer system. The department of revenue may design and sell to towing companies informational brochures outlining owner or lessee of real property obligations pursuant to this section.

5. Neither the law enforcement officer nor anyone having custody of abandoned property under his direction shall be liable for any damage to such abandoned property occasioned by a removal authorized by this section other than damages occasioned by negligence or by willful or wanton acts or omissions.

6. Any towing company which tows abandoned property without authorization from a law enforcement officer pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 2 of this section shall within one hour of the tow report the event and the circumstances to the local law enforcement agency where the abandoned property report was filed.

7. The law enforcement agency receiving notification that abandoned property has been towed by a towing company shall record the date the property was towed and shall forward a copy of the abandoned property report to the director of revenue.

8. If any owner or lessee of real property authorizes the removal of abandoned property pursuant to subsection 2 of this section and such property is so removed and no sign is displayed prior to such removal as required pursuant to subsection 2 of this section, then the owner or lessee shall be deemed guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

304.170. 1. No vehicle operated upon the highways of this state shall have a width, including load, in excess of ninety-six inches, except clearance lights, rearview mirrors or other accessories required by federal, state or city law or regulation; except that, vehicles having a width, including load, not in excess of one hundred two inches, exclusive of clearance lights, rearview mirrors or other accessories required by law or regulations, may be operated on the interstate highways and such other highways as may be designated by the highways and transportation commission for the operation of such vehicles plus a distance not to exceed ten miles from such interstate or designated highway. **Provided however, a recreational vehicle**

**as defined in section 700.010, RSMo, may exceed the foregoing width limits if the appurtenances on such recreational vehicle extend no further than the rearview mirrors. Such mirrors may only extend the distance necessary to provide the required field of view before the appurtenances were attached.**

2. No vehicle operated upon the interstate highway system or upon any route designated by the chief engineer of the state highways and transportation department shall have a height, including load, in excess of fourteen feet. On all other highways, no vehicle shall have a height, including load, in excess of thirteen and one-half feet, except that any vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting automobiles or other motor vehicles may have a height, including load, of not more than fourteen feet.

3. No single motor vehicle operated upon the highways of this state shall have a length, including load, in excess of forty feet, except as otherwise provided in this section.

4. No bus, **recreational motor vehicle** or trackless trolley coach operated upon the highways of this state shall have a length in excess of forty-five feet, except that such vehicles may exceed the forty-five feet length when such excess length is caused by the projection of a front safety bumper or a rear safety bumper or both. Such safety bumper shall not cause the length of the bus **or recreational motor vehicle** to exceed the forty-five feet length limit by more than one foot in the front and one foot in the rear. The term "safety bumper" means any device which may be fitted on an existing bumper or which replaces the bumper and is so constructed, treated, or manufactured that it absorbs energy upon impact.

5. No combination of truck-tractor and semitrailer operated upon the highways of this state shall have a length, including load, in excess of sixty feet; except that in order to comply with the provisions of Title 23 of the United States Code (Public Law 97-424), no combination of truck-tractor and semitrailer operated upon the interstate highway system of this state shall have an overall length, including load, in excess of the length of the truck-tractor plus the semitrailer, the length of which shall not exceed fifty-three feet.

6. In order to comply with the provisions of Title 23 of the United States Code (Public Law 97-424), no combination of truck-tractor, semitrailer and trailer operated upon the interstate highway system of this state shall have an overall length, including load, in excess of the length of the truck-tractor plus the semitrailer and trailer, neither of which semitrailer or trailer shall exceed twenty-eight feet in length, except that any existing semitrailer or trailer up to twenty-eight and one-half feet in length actually and lawfully operated on December 1, 1982, within a sixty-five foot overall length limit in any state, may continue to be operated upon the interstate highways of this state. On those primary highways not designated by the state highways and transportation commission as provided in subsection 10 of this section, no combination of truck-tractor, semitrailer and trailer shall have an overall length, including load, in excess of sixty-five feet; provided, however, the state highways and transportation commission

may designate additional routes for such sixty-five foot combinations.

7. Automobile transporters, boat transporters and truck-trailer boat transporter combinations having a length not in excess of sixty-five feet and stinger-steered combination automobile transporters and stinger-steered combination boat transporters having a length not in excess of seventy-five feet may be operated on the interstate highways of this state and such other highways as may be designated by the highways and transportation commission for the operation of such vehicles plus a distance not to exceed ten miles from such interstate or designated highway. All length provisions regarding automobile or boat transporters, truck-trailer boat transporter combinations and stinger-steered combinations **shall include a semitrailer length not to exceed fifty-three feet and** are exclusive of front and rear overhang, which shall be no greater than a three-foot front overhang and no greater than a four-foot rear overhang.

8. Driveaway saddlemount combinations having a length not in excess of seventy-five feet may be operated on the interstate highways of this state and such other highways as may be designated by the highways and transportation commission for the operation of such vehicles plus a distance not to exceed ten miles from such interstate or designated highway. Saddlemount combinations must comply with the safety requirements of section 393.71 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations and may contain no more than three saddlemounted vehicles and one fullmount.

9. No truck-tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination vehicles operated upon the interstate and designated primary highway system of this state shall have a semitrailer length in excess of twenty-eight feet or twenty-eight and one-half feet if the semitrailer was in actual and lawful operation in any state on December 1, 1982, operating in a truck-tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination. The B-train assembly is excluded from the measurement of semitrailer length when used between the first and second semitrailer of a truck-tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination, except that when there is no semitrailer mounted to the B-train assembly, it shall be included in the length measurement of the semitrailer.

10. The highways and transportation commission is authorized to designate routes on the state highway system other than the interstate system over which those combinations of vehicles of the lengths specified in subsections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of this section may be operated. Combinations of vehicles operated under the provisions of subsections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of this section may be operated at a distance not to exceed ten miles from the interstate system and such routes as designated under the provisions of this subsection.

11. Except as provided in subsections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of this section, no other combination of vehicles operated upon the primary or interstate highways of this state plus a distance of ten miles from a primary or interstate highway shall have an overall length, unladen or with load, in excess of sixty-five feet or in excess of fifty-five feet on any other highway, except the state highways and transportation commission may designate additional routes for use by

sixty-five foot combinations, seventy-five foot stinger-steered combinations or seventy-five foot saddlemount combinations. Any vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting automobiles, boats or other motor vehicles may carry a load which extends no more than three feet beyond the front and four feet beyond the rear of the transporting vehicle or combination of vehicles.

12. (1) Except as hereinafter provided, these restrictions shall not apply to agricultural implements operating occasionally on the highways for short distances, or to self-propelled hay-hauling equipment or to implements of husbandry, or to vehicles temporarily transporting agricultural implements or implements of husbandry or roadmaking machinery, or road materials or towing for repair purposes vehicles that have become disabled upon the highways; or to implement dealers delivering or moving farm machinery for repairs on any state highway other than the interstate system.

(2) Implements of husbandry and vehicles transporting such machinery or equipment may be operated occasionally for short distances on state highways when operated between the hours of sunrise and sunset by a driver licensed as an operator or chauffeur.

13. As used in this chapter the term "implements of husbandry" means all self-propelled machinery operated at speeds of less than thirty miles per hour, specifically designed for, or especially adapted to be capable of, incidental over-the-road and primary offroad usage and used exclusively for the application of commercial plant food materials or agricultural chemicals, and not specifically designed or intended for transportation of such chemicals and materials. No implement of husbandry may exceed a width of eleven feet, six inches.

14. The purpose of this section is to permit a single trip per day by the implement of husbandry from the source of supply to a given farm.

15. Sludge disposal units may be operated on all state highways other than the interstate system. Such units shall not exceed one hundred thirty-eight inches in width and may be equipped with over-width tires. Such units shall observe all axle weight limits. The chief engineer of the state highways and transportation department shall issue special permits for the movement of such disposal units and may by such permits restrict the movements to specified routes, days and hours.

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