GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY
65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

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July 8, 2016

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 1733 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 301.067, 302.276, 304.022, 304.044, 304.170, and 307.175, RSMo, section 577.060 as enacted by senate bill no. 491, ninety-seventh general assembly, second regular session, and section 577.060 as enacted by house bill no. 3, eighty-fifth general assembly, first extraordinary session, and to enact in lieu thereof eight new sections relating to the regulation of vehicles, with penalty provisions.

I disapprove of Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 1733 (House Bill No. 1733). My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

House Bill No. 1733 contains a variety of provisions relating to motor vehicles some of which will become law by my action on other legislation. However, two provisions in House Bill No. 1733 would make our roadways less safe and will not receive my approval. The first provision would authorize contractors and subcontractors of the Department of Transportation to display emergency lights and is similar, but not identical to, a provision in Senate Bill No. 732. Because the language in House Bill No. 1733 would allow these transportation vehicles to display red and blue lights, colors normally associated with public safety vehicles, the legislation could create danger and confusion to the motoring public and will not receive my approval.

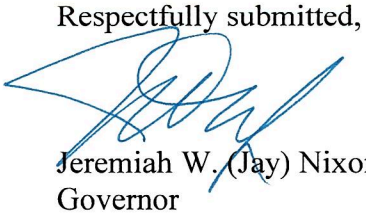
Under current law, motorists are directed to take caution when approaching a vehicle owned by the Department of Transportation displaying amber and white lights. The obvious purpose behind this law is to protect highway workers. The intent of both House Bill No. 1733 and Senate Bill No. 732 is to extend these protections by allowing contractors and subcontractors of the Department of Transportation to similarly display lights on their vehicles while performing work for the department. While Senate Bill No. 732 would allow the use of amber and white lights on these additional vehicles, House Bill No. 1733 would also authorize vehicles of the Department of Transportation as well as their contractors and subcontractors the option of displaying red and blue lights.

Red and blue lights are used by emergency vehicles such as police cars and fire apparatus. Permitting transportation vehicles to also display red and blue lights will cause motorists needless confusion. Adequate protection is afforded by the displaying of amber and white lights and Senate Bill No. 732 will extend that protection to contractors and subcontractors of the Department of Transportation. As a result, the broader lighting options contained in House Bill No. 1733 is not necessary and the legislation does not receive my approval.

A second provision would establish a pilot program for testing automated long-haul trucks – referred to as "platooning" or connected vehicle technology – on Missouri highways. Connected vehicle technology allows multiple long-haul trucks to travel in tandem, with less than fifty feet separation, using wireless and radar-based technology to synchronize the braking and acceleration of the two "platooned" trucks. Automated driving technology has advanced significantly within the last several years; however, the long-term safety and reliability of this technology remains unproven. That fact was tragically highlighted with the recent fatality involving a self-driving passenger vehicle. The risks associated with automated vehicles are even greater considering the size of long-haul trucks and the catastrophic damage that could occur if the technology failed. Using Missouri highways as a testing ground for long-haul trucks to deploy this unproven technology is simply a risk not worth taking at this time.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 1733 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor