

Regulating Traffic—Passing Waste Collection Vehicles, Length and Weight Limits, Improper Passing of a School Bus, Golf Cart Operation; Sub. for SB 272

Sub. for SB 272 amends the Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Uniform Act) regarding passing of waste collection vehicles, length and weight limits for certain vehicles, the fine for improper passing of a school bus, and operation of golf carts on city streets.

Move Over for Waste Collection Vehicles

The bill adds a new section to the Uniform Act that requires drivers of motor vehicles to take certain actions when approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle obviously and actually engaged in waste collection and displaying hazard warning signal lamps as required by KSA 8-1722. [Note: KSA 8-1722 requires every vehicle designed and used for collection of waste to be equipped with simultaneously flashing amber lights and to use those lights when collecting or transporting waste and traveling at 15 miles per hour or less.]

The bill requires a driver of a motor vehicle approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle to proceed with due caution and take one of two actions:

- Move into a lane not adjacent to that of the stationary waste collection vehicle, if the highway consists of at least two lanes in the same direction of travel as the driver's motor vehicle and road, weather, and traffic conditions permit; or
- Reduce the speed of the vehicle and maintain a safe speed for the road, weather, and traffic conditions.

[Note: These actions are the same as those required in KSA 2017 Supp. 8-1531 when the driver of a motor vehicle approaches an authorized road construction vehicle.]

The bill defines “waste collection vehicle” as a vehicle specifically designed, equipped, and used exclusively for garbage, refuse, recycling, or solid waste collection or disposal operations.

The bill requires a law enforcement officer to issue a warning citation prior to July 1, 2019, for the unlawful passing of a waste collection vehicle and establishes a fine of \$45 for such violation.

The bill specifies the section added shall not operate to relieve the driver of a waste collection vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.

Fine for Improper Passing of a School Bus

The bill increases the fine for improper passing of a school bus for any subsequent violation within five years to \$750 for a second violation and to \$1,000 for a third or subsequent violation. The fine in continuing law for improper passing of a school bus is \$315.

Length and Weight Limits

The bill adds specified exemptions to limits on vehicle weights and lengths for certain vehicles.

Vehicle Weight

The bill authorizes the operation of an emergency vehicle at a gross weight not exceeding 86,000 pounds and subject to maximum weights on axles of 24,000 pounds on a single steering axle, 33,500 pounds on a single drive axle, 62,000 pounds on a tandem axle, and 52,000 pounds on a tandem rear drive steering axle. The bill defines “emergency vehicle” for this purpose as a vehicle designed to be used under emergency conditions to transport personnel and equipment and to support the suppression of fires and mitigation of other hazardous situations.

Vehicle Length

The bill adds an exemption from limits on the lengths of vehicles and vehicle combinations operated on Kansas public roads to allow a towaway trailer transporter combination not exceeding 82 feet in length. The bill defines a “towaway trailer transporter combination” as a trailer transporter towing unit and 2 trailers or semitrailers with a total weight not exceeding 26,000 pounds; the bill requires the trailers carry no property and constitute inventory property of a trailer manufacturer, distributor, or dealer. The bill defines a “trailer transporting towing unit” as a power unit not used to carry property when operating in this combination.

Golf Carts Operated at Night

The bill authorizes operation of a golf cart on any public street or highway between sunset and sunrise if the golf cart is equipped with lights as required by law for motorcycles and with a properly mounted slow-moving vehicle emblem as required by KSA 8-1717. [*Note:* Requirements for lights on motorcycles, in KSA 8-1801 *et seq.*, include head lamps of a certain intensity and tail lamps. A slow-moving vehicle emblem is defined in KSA 8-1717; it must be mounted on the rear of the vehicle, in or near the center, between two and ten feet above the ground.]

Continuing law prohibits operation of golf carts on any interstate, federal, or state highway; on any public highway or street within a city unless authorized by that city; and on any street or highway with a posted speed limit exceeding 30 miles per hour.