

Vehicle Lights; Stopping for On-track Equipment; Sun Screening Material; Operation of All-terrain Vehicles; Regulation of E-scooters; SB 63

SB 63 amends the Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Uniform Act) regarding use of certain lights by transportation network company drivers, driver responsibilities when on-track equipment is nearby, sun screening material on vehicle windows, operation of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and work-site utility vehicles, and regulation of electric-assisted scooters (e-scooters).

Transportation Network Company Lights

The bill adds to the Uniform Act authorization for the governing body of a city to adopt an ordinance to allow a driver for a transportation network company, when the driver is logged on to the transportation network company's digital network, to equip the vehicle with a device capable of displaying light visible from directly in front of the center of the vehicle. The bill specifies the lighting device could display steady light and light of any color except red. Terms used in the bill have the meanings provided in the Kansas Transportation Network Company Services Act.

The bill amends provisions prohibiting lights visible from the center front on vehicles to authorize lights meeting the provisions added by the bill (as described above).

Stopping When On-track Equipment Is Nearby

The bill requires a driver to stop a vehicle at least 15 feet, but not more than 50 feet, before crossing a railroad track under certain circumstances if other on-track equipment, in addition to a railroad train as in continuing law, is nearby. The circumstances under which such a stop is required are the same as those for which a stop is required for a railroad train:

- A clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device gives warning of the approach of the train or other on-track equipment;
- A crossing gate is lowered or a human flagman gives a signal that a train or on-track equipment is approaching or passing;
- The railroad train or on-track equipment approaching within approximately 1,500 feet emits a signal audible from such distance and is, by reason of speed or proximity, an immediate hazard; or
- The approaching railroad train or on-track equipment is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to such crossing.

Sun Screening Material on Vehicle Windows

The bill authorizes the installation of a clear, colorless, and transparent material on a vehicle's windshield, side wings, side windows, or rear windows if the following conditions are met:

- The material has a minimum visible light transmittance of 78 percent;
- The window glazing with the applied material meets federal motor vehicle safety standards regarding window glazing materials;
- The material is designed and manufactured to block the sun's ultraviolet A or B rays by enhancing the vehicle's existing window glass;
- The driver or occupant of the vehicle possesses a signed statement from a licensed physician or optometrist that:
 - Identifies the driver or occupant; and
 - States the installation of the material on the vehicle windows is, in the physician's or optometrist's professional opinion, necessary for the safety or health of the driver or occupant; and
- The material is removed or replaced if it tears, bubbles, or otherwise prohibits clear vision through the window.

The bill states any driver who is issued a citation for failure to possess a signed statement from a licensed physician or a licensed optometrist (as outlined above) has 60 days to either produce such a signed statement in court or remove the material. If the driver does either of those things within 60 days, the bill requires the court to dismiss the citation.

The bill also amends an exclusion for a law enforcement motor vehicle from a requirement that light transmission through vehicle windows not be less than 35 percent to remove a requirement the law enforcement vehicle be clearly identified as such on the outside of the vehicle.

Operation of All-terrain Vehicles and Work-site Utility Vehicles

The bill authorizes operation of ATVs and work-site utility vehicles to cross a federal highway or a state highway.

The bill also authorizes a person engaged in agricultural purposes to operate an ATV or work-site utility vehicle on a federal highway or state highway outside the corporate limits of any city under the following conditions:

- The operator must be a licensed driver operating within the restrictions of the operator's license;

- The posted speed limit on the federal highway or state highway must be 65 miles per hour or less; and
- The vehicle must be operated as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, except when making or preparing to make a left turn.

Regulation of Electric-assisted Scooters

The bill regulates the use of e-scooters, which are defined by the bill as every self-propelled vehicle having at least two wheels in contact with the ground, an electric motor, handlebars, a brake, and a deck designed to be stood upon while riding.

The bill amends the Uniform Act to prohibit any person from operating an e-scooter on any interstate highway, federal highway, or state highway. The bill permits the governing body of a city or county to adopt an ordinance or resolution further restricting or prohibiting the use of e-scooters on public highways, streets, or sidewalks within such cities or counties. The bill applies traffic regulations applicable to bicycles to e-scooters. The bill does not prohibit e-scooters from crossing a federal or state highway.

The bill adds a fine of \$45 for unlawful operation of an e-scooter.

The bill also includes the new definition of e-scooter in vehicle registration statutes. The bill excludes e-scooters from registration.