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MOBIKEFED.ORG

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2016 Bills We Support

SUPPORT: HB 1813 (Hicks) & SB 917 (Schaefer) Increases the penalties and license suspension periods for the offense of failing to yield the right-of-way

This bill increases monetary penalties and driver license suspension for drivers who fail to yield and then injure or kill. Also included is a mandatory driver improvement program for drivers who kill, before their driving privileges are reinstated.

This bill is a top priority of our membership.

SUPPORT: HB 2044 (Charlie Davis) – Minimum distance when passing a bicyclist

Only a very small percentage of drivers pass bicyclists at too close a distance. But our members report that this small percentage of too-close passes is very unsafe.

24 states set a specific minimum distance required when passing a bicyclist. These states report good results from these laws. It is time for Missouri to become the 25th state.

This bill is a top priority of our membership.

SUPPORT: Texting while driving & distracted driving

Texting while driving and driving while distracted are a major preventable cause of injuries and fatalities on Missouri roads. We strongly support legislation to ban distracted driving practices, including texting while driving.

2016 bills include SB 569 (Pearce), SB 821 (Schupp), HB 2126 (Higdon), HB 1423 (Brown), HB 1377 (Walker), HB 1542 (English).

SUPPORT: HB 2178 (Higdon) Requires high schools to offer driver's education courses

Many Missouri high schools still offer Driver's Ed, but many have dropped it from the curriculum.

That means that many young Missouri drivers never have the opportunity to thoroughly learn the rules of the road in a systematic way.



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2016 Bills We Oppose

OPPOSE: Any Bill to Restrict Bicycle Access to the State Road System

We strongly oppose plans to ban bicyclists from any public roads, highways, or streets in Missouri, or bills that ban bicyclists from public roads while requiring them to use a parallel trail or 'sidepath.' These proposals restrict Missourians freedom of movement and negatively impact public health and safety. *(No bill number yet; Rep. Bart Korman has introduced similar bills in previous years.)*

OPPOSE: HB2046 - Requires bicycles operated on lettered county roads to be equipped with safety flags 15 feet in height

We oppose this bill strongly.

- Carrying any flag is impractical for most bicyclists.
- The proposal will be impossible to enforce.
- The proposal will not increase safety for bicyclists in any meaningful way.

Practical solutions to the issue that we could support:

- Funding for safety education for both motorists and bicyclists.
- Lowering speed limits and enforcement of speed limits on narrow and windy roads.
- Adding shoulders to roads in rural areas.

OPPOSE: HB2047 - Allows certain individuals to use all terrain vehicles and golf carts on the Katy Trail on certain days

We oppose this bill as written. Users value the Katy Trail precisely because it is a space free of motorized vehicles.

Federal law already requires access to trails for people with disabilities. Let's work together with Missouri State Parks to ensure the existing disabilities access policy is as good as it can be.

OPPOSE: HB 2264 - Eliminates the requirement that an operator of a motor vehicle come to a full and complete stop for the purposes of turning right at a red light

This proposal is an active danger to pedestrians crossing at intersections. Technically drivers will be required to yield to pedestrians, but practically right-turners will be looking left while turning right

Intersections are already a dangerous place for pedestrians and this proposal will make the situation worse.



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Dangerous Drivers Who Injure/Kill: SB917 & HB1813

A very few dangerous driver are responsible for a disproportionate amount of injuries and deaths on Missouri roads.

SB 917, sponsored by Sen. Kurt Schaeffer, and HB 1813, sponsored by Rep. Ron Hicks, propose to increase penalties for that very small percentage of very dangerous drivers whose actions injure or kill.

- **For drivers who fail to yield the right of way leading to injury, serious injury, or death, there are increasing penalties depending on severity of the injury**
- **Driving privileges are suspended for increasing periods, depending on the severity of the injury.**
- **For drivers who fail to yield the right-of-way causing a fatality, participation in a driver improvement program is required before driving privileges are reinstated.**

This bill encourages personal responsibility by ensuring that the dangerous driving actions that result in injury or death to others have appropriate penalties.

It applies only in cases where:

- *Drivers takes a dangerous and illegal action*
- *That action results in injury or death of others*

This issue is one of the top priorities of our membership.