

KANSAS OFFICE *of*  
**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
*Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.*

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: House Committee on Transportation  
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Date: March 17, 2021  
Subject: Bill Brief – SB 167

SB 167 classifies certain public utility motor vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles.

Section 1 includes motor vehicles operated by authorized persons of an electric or natural gas public utility to be included under the definition of “authorized emergency vehicle.” The Senate Committee of the Whole adopted a floor amendment to also include vehicles operated by “providers” as defined in K.S.A. 17-1902 and “wireless infrastructure providers” and “wireless service providers” as defined in K.S.A. 66-2019 in the definition of “authorized emergency vehicles.” K.S.A. 17-1902 defines “providers” as a local exchange carrier, a telecommunications carrier or a video service provider.

Authorized emergency vehicles are granted certain operational rights under K.S.A. 8-1506. K.S.A. 8-1520a provides for a violation for the unlawful passing of a stopped authorized emergency vehicle. K.S.A. 8-1530 requires drivers approaching an authorized emergency vehicle to yield. K.S.A. 8-1541 requires pedestrians to yield the right-of-way to authorized emergency vehicles.

Section 2 exempts those motor vehicles operated by authorized persons of an electric or natural gas public utility as well as vehicles operated by providers, wireless infrastructure providers and wireless service providers from board of county commissioners’ authority to designate such vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles.