

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to vehicles with autonomous
3 technology; defining the term "autonomous technology";
4 providing legislative intent and findings; amending s.
5 316.003, F.S.; defining the terms "autonomous vehicle"
6 and "autonomous technology" when used in provisions
7 for traffic control; creating s. 316.85, F.S.;
8 authorizing a person who possesses a valid driver
9 license to operate an autonomous vehicle; specifying
10 that the person who causes the vehicle's autonomous
11 technology to engage is the operator; creating s.
12 319.145, F.S.; requiring an autonomous vehicle
13 registered in this state to meet federal standards and
14 regulations for a motor vehicle; specifying certain
15 requirements for such vehicle; providing for the
16 application of certain federal regulations;
17 authorizing the operation of vehicles equipped with
18 autonomous technology by certain persons for testing
19 purposes under certain conditions; requiring an
20 instrument of insurance, surety bond, or self-
21 insurance prior to the testing of a vehicle; directing
22 the department to prepare a report on the safe testing
23 and operation of vehicles equipped with autonomous
24 technology and submit the report to the Legislature by
25 a certain date; providing an effective date.

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27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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29 Section 1. Vehicles equipped with autonomous technology;
30 intent.—

31 (1) As used in this section, the term "autonomous
32 technology" means technology installed on a motor vehicle that
33 has the capability to drive the vehicle on which the technology
34 is installed without the active control or monitoring by a human
35 operator. The term excludes a motor vehicle enabled with active
36 safety systems or driver assistance systems, including, without
37 limitation, a system to provide electronic blind spot
38 assistance, crash avoidance, emergency braking, parking
39 assistance, adaptive cruise control, lane keep assistance, lane
40 departure warning, or traffic jam and queuing assistant, unless
41 any such system alone or in combination with other systems
42 enables the vehicle on which the technology is installed to
43 drive without the active control or monitoring by a human
44 operator.

45 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the
46 safe development, testing, and operation of motor vehicles with
47 autonomous technology on the public roads of the state. The
48 Legislature finds that the state does not prohibit or
49 specifically regulate the testing or operation of autonomous
50 technology in motor vehicles on public roads.

51 Section 2. Subsection (89) is added to section 316.003,
52 Florida Statutes, to read:

53 316.003 Definitions.—The following words and phrases, when
54 used in this chapter, shall have the meanings respectively
55 ascribed to them in this section, except where the context
56 otherwise requires:

57 (89) AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE.—Any vehicle equipped with
 58 autonomous technology. The term "autonomous technology" means
 59 technology installed on a motor vehicle that has the capability
 60 to drive the vehicle on which the technology is installed
 61 without the active control or monitoring by a human operator.
 62 The term excludes a motor vehicle enabled with active safety
 63 systems or driver assistance systems, including, without
 64 limitation, a system to provide electronic blind spot
 65 assistance, crash avoidance, emergency braking, parking
 66 assistance, adaptive cruise control, lane keep assistance, lane
 67 departure warning, or traffic jam and queuing assistant, unless
 68 any such system alone or in combination with other systems
 69 enables the vehicle on which the technology is installed to
 70 drive without the active control or monitoring by a human
 71 operator.

72 Section 3. Section 316.85, Florida Statutes, is created to
 73 read:

74 316.85 Autonomous vehicles; operation.—

75 (1) A person who possesses a valid driver license may
 76 operate an autonomous vehicle in autonomous mode.

77 (2) For purposes of this chapter, unless the context
 78 otherwise requires, a person shall be deemed to be the operator
 79 of an autonomous vehicle operating in autonomous mode when the
 80 person causes the vehicle's autonomous technology to engage,
 81 regardless of whether the person is physically present in the
 82 vehicle while the vehicle is operating in autonomous mode.

83 Section 4. Section 319.145, Florida Statutes, is created
 84 to read:

85 319.145 Autonomous vehicles.—

86 (1) An autonomous vehicle registered in this state must
 87 continue to meet federal standards and regulations for a motor
 88 vehicle. The vehicle shall:

89 (a) Have a means to engage and disengage the autonomous
 90 technology which is easily accessible to the operator.

91 (b) Have a means, inside the vehicle, to visually indicate
 92 when the vehicle is operating in autonomous mode.

93 (c) Have a means to alert the operator of the vehicle if a
 94 technology failure affecting the ability of the vehicle to
 95 safely operate autonomously is detected while the vehicle is
 96 operating autonomously in order to indicate to the operator to
 97 take control of the vehicle.

98 (d) Be capable of being operated in compliance with the
 99 applicable traffic and motor vehicle laws of this state.

100 (2) Federal regulations promulgated by the National
 101 Highway Traffic Safety Administration shall supersede this
 102 section when found to be in conflict with this section.

103 Section 5. (1) Vehicles equipped with autonomous
 104 technology may be operated on roads in this state by employees,
 105 contractors, or other persons designated by manufacturers of
 106 autonomous technology for the purpose of testing the technology.
 107 For testing purposes, a human operator shall be present in the
 108 autonomous vehicle such that he or she has the ability to
 109 monitor the vehicle's performance and intervene, if necessary,
 110 unless the vehicle is being tested or demonstrated on a closed
 111 course. Prior to the start of testing in this state, the entity
 112 performing the testing must submit to the Department of Highway

CS/HB 1207

2012

113 Safety and Motor Vehicles an instrument of insurance, surety
114 bond, or proof of self-insurance acceptable to the department in
115 the amount of \$5 million.

116 (2) By February 12, 2014, the Department of Highway Safety
117 and Motor Vehicles shall submit a report to the President of the
118 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
119 recommending additional legislative or regulatory action that
120 may be required for the safe testing and operation of motor
121 vehicles equipped with autonomous technology.

122 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.