

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to autonomous vehicles; amending s.
 3 316.85, F.S.; authorizing a person to operate, or
 4 engage autonomous technology to operate, an autonomous
 5 vehicle in autonomous mode; providing that autonomous
 6 technology is deemed to be the operator of an
 7 autonomous vehicle operating in autonomous mode;
 8 providing construction; defining the term "human
 9 operator"; amending ss. 316.062, 316.063, 316.065, and
 10 316.1975, F.S.; providing applicability; amending s.
 11 319.145, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
 12 by the act; creating s. 322.015, F.S.; exempting
 13 autonomous vehicles from certain provisions under
 14 certain circumstances; defining the term "human
 15 operator"; providing an effective date.

16
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18
 19 Section 1. Section 316.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 20 read:

21 316.85 Autonomous vehicles; operation; compliance with
 22 traffic and motor vehicle laws.—

23 (1) If an autonomous vehicle is equipped with autonomous
 24 technology as defined in s. 316.003, a person ~~who possesses a~~
 25 ~~valid driver license~~ may:

26 (a) Operate the an autonomous vehicle in autonomous mode
 27 on roads in this state; or

28 (b) Engage ~~if the vehicle is equipped with~~ autonomous
 29 technology to operate the autonomous vehicle in autonomous mode
 30 on roads in this state, regardless of whether a human person is
 31 physically present in the vehicle, ~~as defined in s. 316.003.~~

32 (2) (a) For purposes of this chapter, unless the context
 33 otherwise requires, autonomous technology ~~a person~~ shall be
 34 deemed to be the operator of an autonomous vehicle operating in
 35 autonomous mode ~~when the person causes the vehicle's autonomous~~
 36 ~~technology to engage,~~ regardless of whether a human ~~the person~~
 37 is physically present in the vehicle while the vehicle is
 38 operating in autonomous mode.

39 (b) Unless otherwise provided by law, an applicable
 40 traffic or motor vehicle law of this state does not:

41 1. Prohibit autonomous technology from being deemed the
 42 operator of an autonomous vehicle operating in autonomous mode.

43 2. Require a licensed human operator to operate an
 44 autonomous vehicle when in autonomous mode, except as provided
 45 in s. 319.145(1). For purposes of this subparagraph, the term
 46 "human operator" means a natural person physically present in
 47 the vehicle with immediate access to controls for steering,
 48 braking, and acceleration.

49 Section 2. Subsection (5) is added to section 316.062,
 50 Florida Statutes, to read:

51 316.062 Duty to give information and render aid.—

52 (5) This section does not apply to an autonomous vehicle
 53 operating in autonomous mode in the event of a crash involving
 54 the vehicle if the vehicle owner, or a person on behalf of the
 55 vehicle owner, promptly contacts a law enforcement agency to
 56 report the crash or if the autonomous vehicle has the capability
 57 of alerting a law enforcement agency to the crash.

58 Section 3. Subsection (4) is added to section 316.063,
 59 Florida Statutes, to read:

60 316.063 Duty upon damaging unattended vehicle or other
 61 property.—

62 (4) This section does not apply to an autonomous vehicle
 63 operating in autonomous mode in the event of a crash involving
 64 the vehicle if the vehicle owner, or a person on behalf of the
 65 vehicle owner, promptly contacts a law enforcement agency to
 66 report the crash or if the autonomous vehicle has the capability
 67 of alerting a law enforcement agency to the crash.

68 Section 4. Subsection (5) is added to section 316.065,
 69 Florida Statutes, to read:

70 316.065 Crashes; reports; penalties.—

71 (5) Subsection (1) does not apply to an autonomous vehicle
 72 operating in autonomous mode in the event of a crash involving
 73 the vehicle if the vehicle owner, or a person on behalf of the
 74 vehicle owner, promptly contacts a law enforcement agency to
 75 report the crash or if the autonomous vehicle has the capability

76 | of alerting a law enforcement agency to the crash.

77 | Section 5. Subsection (3) is added to section 316.1975,
78 | Florida Statutes, to read:

79 | 316.1975 Unattended motor vehicle.—

80 | (3) This section does not apply to an autonomous vehicle
81 | operating in autonomous mode.

82 | Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 319.145, Florida
83 | Statutes, is amended to read:

84 | 319.145 Autonomous vehicles.—

85 | (1) An autonomous vehicle registered in this state must
86 | ~~continue to~~ meet applicable federal standards and regulations
87 | for such motor vehicle. Regardless of whether a human operator
88 | is physically present in the vehicle, the vehicle must:

89 | (a) Have a system to safely alert a human ~~the~~ operator
90 | physically present in the vehicle if an autonomous technology
91 | failure is detected while the autonomous technology is engaged.
92 | When an alert is given, the system must:

93 | 1. If a human operator is physically present in the
94 | vehicle, require the human operator to take control of the
95 | autonomous vehicle; or

96 | 2. If a human ~~the~~ operator does not, or is not able to,
97 | take control of the autonomous vehicle or if a human operator is
98 | not physically present in the vehicle, be capable of bringing
99 | the vehicle to a complete stop.

100 | (b) Have a means, inside the vehicle, to visually indicate

101 when the vehicle is operating in autonomous mode.

102 (c) Be capable of being operated in compliance with the
103 applicable traffic and motor vehicle laws of this state.

104
105 For purposes of this subsection, the term "human operator" means
106 a natural person physically present in the vehicle with
107 immediate access to controls for steering, braking, and
108 acceleration.

109 Section 7. Section 322.015, Florida Statutes, is created
110 to read:

111 322.015 Exemption.—This chapter does not apply when an
112 autonomous vehicle is operated in autonomous mode without a
113 human operator physically present in the vehicle. For purposes
114 of this section, the term "human operator" means a natural
115 person physically present in the vehicle with immediate access
116 to controls for steering, braking, and acceleration.

117 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.