

1 HB160
2 197001-3
3 By Representative Lovvorn
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
5 First Read: 19-MAR-19

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would authorize autonomous
9 vehicles operated by an automated driving system.

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11 A BILL
12 TO BE ENTITLED
13 AN ACT

14
15 Relating to motor vehicles; to authorize autonomous
16 vehicles operated by an automated driving system.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

18 Section 1. For the purposes of this act, the
19 following words have the following meanings:

20 (1) AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE. A vehicle equipped with an
21 automated driving system, including those designed to function
22 without a human driver.

23 (2) AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEM. The hardware and
24 software that are collectively capable of performing the
25 entire dynamic driving task of an autonomous vehicle on a
26 sustained basis, regardless of whether it is limited to a
27 specific operational design domain.

1 (3) CONVENTIONAL HUMAN DRIVER. A natural person who
2 is physically present in a vehicle equipped with an automated
3 driving system.

4 (4) DYNAMIC DRIVING TASK. The real-time operational
5 and tactical functions required to operate a vehicle in
6 on-road traffic within its specific operational design domain,
7 if any, excluding strategic functions such as trip scheduling
8 and selection of destinations and waypoints.

9 (5) MINIMAL RISK CONDITION. A reasonably safe state
10 to which an automated driving system brings an autonomous
11 vehicle, such as bringing the vehicle to a complete stop and
12 activating the vehicle's hazard lamps or slowing the vehicle
13 and engaging a teleoperation system.

14 (6) OPERATIONAL DESIGN DOMAIN. A description of the
15 specific operating domain in which an autonomous vehicle is
16 designed to properly operate, including, but not limited to,
17 roadway types, speed, environmental conditions, and other
18 domain constraints.

19 (7) REMOTE HUMAN OPERATOR. A natural person who is
20 not physically present in a vehicle equipped with an automated
21 driving system who engages or monitors the vehicle from a
22 remote location. A remote human operator may have the ability
23 to perform aspects of or the entirety of the dynamic driving
24 task for the vehicle or cause the vehicle to achieve a minimal
25 risk condition.

1 (8) TELEOPERATION SYSTEM. Hardware and software that
2 allow a remote human operator to supervise or perform aspects
3 of, or the entirety of, the dynamic driving task.

4 Section 2. (a) Unless otherwise provided by this
5 act, autonomous vehicles, automated driving systems, and
6 teleoperations systems, including any commercial use or
7 operations, are governed exclusively by this act.

8 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
9 Department of Transportation is the sole and exclusive state
10 agency with jurisdiction over automated driving systems,
11 autonomous vehicles, and teleoperation systems that may
12 implement this act.

13 (c) A political subdivision of this state or a state
14 agency may not impose a franchise, requirement, or rule,
15 including taxes and performance standards, related to the
16 operation of an automated driving system, autonomous vehicle,
17 or teleoperation system.

18 Section 3. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision
19 of law, a conventional human driver is not required to operate
20 an autonomous vehicle or a vehicle equipped with a
21 teleoperation system in this state.

22 (b) An autonomous vehicle or a vehicle equipped with
23 a teleoperation system may operate in this state regardless of
24 whether a conventional human driver is in the vehicle if the
25 vehicle meets all of the following criteria:

1 (1) The vehicle is capable of operating in
2 compliance with applicable federal law and traffic and motor
3 vehicle laws of this state.

4 (2) The vehicle is registered and titled in
5 accordance with the laws of this state.

6 (3) The vehicle is in compliance with applicable
7 federal law and federal motor vehicle safety standards and
8 displaying the required certification label or labels,
9 including reference to any exemption granted under applicable
10 federal law.

11 (4) The vehicle is capable of achieving a minimal
12 risk condition if a failure occurs rendering the vehicle
13 unable to perform the entire dynamic driving task relevant to
14 its intended operational design domain.

15 (5) The vehicle is equipped with a recording device.

16 (6) The vehicle is covered by a motor vehicle
17 liability coverage or self-insurance in an amount equal to the
18 amount of coverage that is required by the laws of this state.

19 Section 4. (a) The owner of an autonomous vehicle or
20 automated driving system is considered the operator of the
21 vehicle solely for the purpose of assessing compliance with
22 applicable traffic or motor vehicle laws, regardless of
23 whether a person is physically present in the vehicle while it
24 is operating.

25 (b) The automated driving system or remote human
26 driver is considered to be licensed to operate the vehicle.

1 (c) The original manufacturer of a vehicle converted
2 by a third party into an autonomous vehicle or a vehicle
3 equipped with a teleoperation system is not liable in, and
4 shall have a defense to and be dismissed from, any legal
5 action brought against the original manufacturer by any person
6 injured due to an alleged vehicle defect caused by the
7 conversion of the vehicle to an autonomous vehicle or
8 teleoperation system, or by equipment installed in the
9 conversion unless the alleged defect was present in the
10 vehicle as originally manufactured.

11 Section 5. When an accident occurs involving an
12 autonomous vehicle with an automated driving system or
13 teleoperation system engaged the requirements of Chapter 10,
14 Title 32, Code of Alabama 1975, shall be deemed satisfied if
15 the autonomous vehicle remains on the scene of the accident
16 and the vehicle, owner, or operator promptly contacts
17 appropriate law enforcement entities and communicates the
18 information required by Chapter 10.

19 Section 6. All laws or parts of laws which conflict
20 with this act are repealed.

21 Section 7. This act shall become effective
22 immediately following its passage and approval by the
23 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.