



**House Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure
Reported Substitute for SB226**

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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to motor vehicles; to provide requirements for the authorization and use of motor vehicles equipped with an automated driving system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. For purposes of this act, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) ADS-EQUIPPED VEHICLE. A vehicle equipped with an automated driving system.

(2) AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEM or ADS. The hardware and software that are collectively capable of performing the entire dynamic driving task on a sustained basis regardless of whether it is limited to a specific operational design domain.

(3) CONVENTIONAL HUMAN DRIVER. An individual, licensed or otherwise permitted by law to operate a vehicle, who manually exercises in-vehicle braking, accelerating, steering, and transmission gear selection input devices in order to operate a vehicle.

(4) DYNAMIC DRIVING TASK or DDT. All of the real-time operational and tactical functions required to operate a vehicle in on-road traffic, excluding the strategic functions such as trip scheduling and selection of destinations and



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29 waypoints, including, but not limited to:

30 a. Lateral vehicle motion control via steering.

31 b. Longitudinal vehicle motion control via acceleration
32 and deceleration.

33 c. Monitoring the driving environment via object and
34 event detection, recognition, classification, and response
35 preparation.

36 d. Object and event response execution.

37 e. Manuever planning.

38 f. Enhancing conspicuity via lighting, signaling, and
39 gesturing.

40 (5) FULLY AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE. A motor vehicle equipped
41 with an automated driving system designed to function without
42 a human driver as a Level 4 or Level 5 automation system under
43 the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Standard J3016.

44 (6) MINIMAL RISK CONDITION. A stable, stopped condition
45 to which a user or an automated driving system may bring a
46 vehicle after performing the DDT fallback in order to reduce
47 the risk of a crash when a given trip cannot or should not be
48 continued.

49 (7) ON-DEMAND AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE NETWORK. A
50 transportation service or network that uses a software
51 application or other digital means to dispatch or otherwise
52 enable the prearrangement of transportation with ADS-equipped
53 vehicles for purposes of transporting passengers or goods,
54 including for-hire transportation and transportation of
55 passengers or goods for compensation.

56 (8) OPERATIONAL DESIGN DOMAIN or ODD. Operating



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57 conditions under which a given ADS or feature thereof is
58 specifically designed to function, including, but not limited
59 to, environmental, geographical, and time-of-day restrictions,
60 and the requisite presence or absence of certain traffic or
61 roadway characteristics

62 Section 2. (a) An person may operate an ADS-equipped
63 vehicle with the ADS engaged on the public roads of this state
64 only under the following conditions:

65 (1) The ADS-equipped vehicle is capable of complying
66 with the following:

67 a. All applicable traffic and motor vehicle safety laws
68 and rules of this state which govern the performance of the
69 dynamic driving task, unless an exemption has been granted
70 pursuant to subsection (b).

71 b. All applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety
72 Standards, except to the extent an exemption has been granted
73 under applicable federal law.

74 c. All applicable traffic control devices, including,
75 but not limited to, speed limit signs, other regulatory signs,
76 advisory signs, warning signs, barriers, and construction or
77 work zone signs.

78 (2) The ADS-equipped vehicle shall be registered and
79 titled in accordance with the laws of this state.

80 (b) An ADS-equipped vehicle may be operated on the
81 public roads of this state without a conventional human driver
82 physically present in the vehicle if the vehicle is capable of
83 achieving a minimal risk condition.

84 Section 3. A fully autonomous vehicle may operate on



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85 public roads in this state only if a person submits proof to
86 the Department of Revenue of financial responsibility that the
87 fully autonomous vehicle has single limits liability coverage,
88 by contract of insurance or by qualifying as a self-insurer,
89 of not less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

90 Section 4. If a traffic accident occurs that involves
91 an ADS-equipped vehicle that is being operated without a
92 conventional human driver, the requirements of Chapter 10 of
93 Title 32, Code of Alabama 1975, do not apply to the
94 ADS-equipped vehicle, provided all of the following occur:

95 (1) The owner of the ADS-equipped vehicle, or a person
96 acting on behalf of the owner, promptly contacts the
97 applicable law enforcement agency to report the crash.

98 (2) If the ADS-equipped vehicle has the capability of
99 promptly alerting a law enforcement agency or emergency
100 services, the vehicle alerts a law enforcement agency or
101 emergency services to the traffic accident.

102 (3) The ADS-equipped vehicle remains at the scene or in
103 the immediate vicinity of the crash until law enforcement
104 arrives.

105 (4) In accordance with Chapter 7A of Title 32, Code of
106 Alabama 1975, the ADS-equipped vehicle's registration and
107 insurance information is provided to the parties affected by
108 the traffic accident.

109 (5) In the event an ADS-equipped vehicle is not an
110 automated commercial motor vehicle under Section 32-9B-1 but
111 is being operated by a commercial entity without a
112 conventional human driver, the owner of the ADS-equipped



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113 vehicle shall be deemed the operator of the vehicle and shall
114 maintain the ability to respond to damages for liability on
115 account of any accidents arising from the use of the
116 ADS-equipped vehicle or automated driving system in the
117 minimum amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per
118 accident for death, bodily injury, and property damage to a
119 third party.

120 Section 5. A conventional human driver of an
121 ADS-equipped vehicle is required to have a valid driver
122 license for the class of vehicle being operated.

123 Section 6. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this act
124 or in Chapter 9B of Title 32, Code of Alabama 1975, and
125 notwithstanding any other provision of law, the operation of
126 ADS-equipped vehicles and automated driving systems is
127 governed exclusively by this act.

128 (b) No state or local entity may impose requirements,
129 including performance standards, specific to the operation of
130 ADS-equipped vehicles, automated driving systems, or automated
131 commercial vehicles as defined in Section 32-9B-1, Code of
132 Alabama 1975, except as specifically authorized by this act.
133 Nothing in this section shall be construed to repeal or in any
134 way modify Section 32-9-29, Code of Alabama 1975.

135 (c) No municipality or other local or state entity may
136 impose a tax on, or impose requirements on ADS-equipped
137 vehicles or automated driving systems, where the tax or other
138 requirement relates specifically to the operation of
139 ADS-equipped vehicles.

140 Section 7. For purposes of this act and for assessing



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141 compliance with applicable traffic or motor vehicle laws,
142 including rules of the road, unless the context otherwise
143 requires, the automated driving system shall be deemed to be
144 the operator of an ADS-equipped vehicle when all of the
145 following apply:

146 (1) The automated driving system is engaged and solely
147 responsible for the driving task.

148 (2) The automated driving system is being operated and
149 maintained as intended by the manufacturer of the ADS-equipped
150 vehicle.

151 (3) A request to intervene has not been issued by the
152 ADS-equipped vehicle.

153 Section 8. (a) Liability for a traffic accident
154 involving an ADS-equipped vehicle shall be determined in
155 accordance with applicable state law, federal law, or common
156 law.

157 (b) The original manufacturer of a vehicle converted by
158 a third party into an ADS-equipped vehicle may not be held
159 liable in, and shall have a defense to and be dismissed from,
160 any legal action brought against the original manufacturer by
161 any individual injured due to an alleged vehicle defect caused
162 by the conversion of the vehicle, or by equipment installed by
163 the converter, unless the alleged defect was present in the
164 vehicle as originally manufactured.

165 Section 9. (a) An ADS-equipped vehicle that is designed
166 to be operated exclusively by an automated driving system for
167 all trips shall not be subject to motor vehicle equipment laws
168 or rules of this state that relate to or support motor vehicle



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169 operation by a conventional human driver but are not relevant
170 to an automated driving system.

171 (b) Any ADS-equipped vehicle or automated commercial
172 vehicle, as defined in Section 32-9B-1, Code of Alabama 1975,
173 may be equipped with ADS marker lamps in accordance with the
174 SAE Recommended Practice and Standard guidelines, including
175 SAE J3134. For purposes of this section, an ADS marker lamp
176 means a device that emits light to indicate when an ADS is
177 engaged in the operation of the vehicle.

178 Section 10. An on-demand autonomous vehicle network
179 shall be permitted to operate pursuant to state laws governing
180 the operation of transportation network companies with the
181 exception that any provision of this state's laws, including
182 Chapter 7C of Title 32, Code of Alabama 1975, which reasonably
183 applies only to a conventional human driver would not apply to
184 the operation of ADS-equipped vehicles with the ADS engaged on
185 an on-demand autonomous vehicle network. A fully autonomous
186 vehicle with the automated driving system engaged while logged
187 on to an on-demand autonomous vehicle network must meet the
188 insurance requirements in Section 4.

189 Section 11. Nothing in this act is intended to, nor be
190 construed to, require a county to construct, upgrade,
191 maintain, or place traffic control devices on county roads in
192 a manner that is above and beyond the manner in which roads
193 are constructed, upgraded, maintained, or designed for all
194 other vehicular traffic.

195 Section 12. This act shall become effective October 1,
196 2024.