

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 308

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD AND SENATOR CORTEZ

MOTOR VEHICLES: Provides relative to vehicle platooning

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:81(B) and (C) and to enact R.S. 32:1(95) and 81(D), (E), and
3 (F), relative to vehicle platooning; to authorize non-lead motor vehicles in a platoon
4 to follow other motor vehicles in a platoon closely; to exempt non-lead motor
5 vehicles in a platoon from operating such vehicle in a manner that allows sufficient
6 space to enable any other vehicle to enter and occupy the space between any motor
7 vehicle in a platoon; to require the filing of a plan for general platoon operations; to
8 provide for rule-making authority; to provide for a prohibition against platoon
9 operation; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 32:81(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
12 32:1(95) and 81(D), (E), and (F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §1. Definitions

14 When used in this Chapter, the following words and phrases have the
15 meanings ascribed to them in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates a
16 different meaning:

17 * * *

18 (95) "Platoon" or "platooning" means a group of individual motor vehicles,
19 including any truck, truck-tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or any combination of these
20 vehicles, utilizing vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology to travel in a unified
21 manner at close following distances.

22 * * *

1 §81. Following vehicles; exceptions

2 * * *

3 B. The driver of a motor truck, when traveling upon a highway outside a
4 business or residential ~~district~~ area, shall not follow another motor truck within four
5 hundred feet, but this shall not be so construed as to prevent one motor truck from
6 overtaking and passing another.

7 C. Motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or
8 ~~residence district~~ residential area in a caravan or motorcade, whether or not towing
9 other vehicles, shall be so operated as to allow sufficient space between each such
10 vehicle or combination of vehicles so as to enable any other vehicle to enter and
11 occupy such space without danger. This provision shall not apply to a funeral
12 procession.

13 D. The operator of a platoon shall file a plan for general platoon operations
14 with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, and the
15 office of state police shall have thirty days to accept or reject such plan. If the office
16 of state police fails to provide a response to a filed plan for general platoon
17 operations within thirty days, the platoon shall be authorized to operate. The
18 Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, in consultation
19 with the Department of Transportation and Development, shall promulgate rules as
20 necessary to implement the provisions of this Subsection.

21 E. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the operation of a non-
22 lead motor vehicle in a platoon.

23 F. The operation of a platoon shall not be authorized on a two-lane highway.

24 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2019.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 308 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Havard

Abstract: Exempts a non-lead vehicle in a platoon from operating each vehicle with sufficient space between them as to enable any other motor vehicle to enter and occupy such space and requires that the operator of a platoon file a plan for general platoon operations with the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police.

Proposed law defines "platoon" or "platooning" as a group of individual motor vehicles, including any truck, truck-tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or any combination of these vehicles, utilizing vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology to travel in a unified manner at close following distances.

Present law prohibits the driver of a motor vehicle from following another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent and prohibits the driver of a motor truck from following another motor truck within 400 feet when traveling upon a highway outside a business or residential district.

Present law requires that motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or residential district in a caravan or motorcade be operated as to allow sufficient space between each vehicle or combination of vehicles as to enable any other vehicle to enter and occupy such space without danger.

Proposed law changes "residential district" to "residential area" and specifies that the provisions of present law do not apply to non-lead vehicles in a platoon but otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law requires that the operator of a platoon file a plan for general platoon operations with the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, and requires the office of state police to accept or reject the plan within 30 days.

Proposed law clarifies that if the office of state police fails to provide a response to a filed plan for general platoon operations within 30 days, the platoon will be authorized to operate.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, work in conjunction with the Dept. of Transportation and Development to promulgate rules as necessary to implement the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law prohibits the operation of a platoon from being authorized to operate on a two-lane highway.

Effective Jan. 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 32:81(B) and (C); Adds R.S. 32:1(95) and 81(D), (E), and (F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.

2. Modify the definition of "platoon" or "platooning" to mean a group of individual motor vehicles, including any truck, truck-tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or any combination of these vehicles, utilizing vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology to travel in a unified manner at close following distances.
3. Require the operator of a platoon to file a plan for general platoon operations with the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, and require the office of state police to accept or reject the plan within 30 days.
4. Specify that a platoon will be authorized to operate if the office of state police fails to provide a response to a filed plan for general platoon operations within 30 days.
5. Require the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, in consultation with the Dept. of Transportation and Development to promulgate rules as necessary to implement the provisions of proposed law.
6. Prohibit the operation of a platoon on a two-lane highway.