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 authorize platoon operation upon approval of an operational
8	plan by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Department of
9	Transportation and Development; to provide for rulemaking authority; to provide for
10	a prohibition against platoon operation; to provide for definitions; and to provide for
11	related matters.
12	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
13	Section 1. R.S. 32:81(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
14	32:1(95) and 81(D), (E), and (F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
15	§1. Definitions
16	When used in this Chapter, the following words and phrases have the
17	meanings ascribed to them in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates a
18	different meaning:
19	* * *

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	(95) "Platoon" or "platooning" means a group of individual motor vehicles,
2	including any truck, truck-tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or any combination of these
3	vehicles, utilizing vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology to travel in a unified
4	manner at close following distances.
5	* * *
6	§81. Following vehicles; exceptions
7	* * *
8	B. The driver of a motor truck, when traveling upon a highway outside a
9	business or residential district area, shall not follow another motor truck within four
10	hundred feet, but this shall not be so construed as to prevent one motor truck from
11	overtaking and passing another.
12	C. Motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or
13	residence district residential area in a caravan or motorcade, whether or not towing
14	other vehicles, shall be so operated as to allow sufficient space between each such
15	vehicle or combination of vehicles so as to enable any other vehicle to enter and
16	occupy such space without danger. This provision shall not apply to a funeral
17	procession.
18	D. A platoon may be operated pursuant to this Section if the platoon operator
19	has an operational plan approved by the Department of Public Safety and
20	Corrections, office of state police, and the Department of Transportation and
21	Development. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state
22	police, and the Department of Transportation and Development may promulgate
23	rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this Subsection.
24	E. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the operation of a non-
25	lead motor vehicle in a platoon.
26	F. The operation of a platoon shall not be authorized on a two-lane highway.
27	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 Reengrossed	2018 Regular Session	Havard
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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 authorizes platoon operation upon approval of an operational plan by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police and the Dept. of Transportation and Development.

<u>Proposed law</u> 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.

<u>Present law</u> 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.

<u>Present law</u> 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.

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

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the operation of a platoon if the platoon operator has an operational plan approved by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, and the Dept. of Transportation and Development.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, and the Dept. of Transportation and Development to promulgate rules as necessary to implement the provisions of <u>proposed law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> prohibits the operation of a platoon from being authorized to operate on a twolane 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 <u>House Committee on Transportation</u>, <u>Highways and Public Works</u> to the <u>original</u> 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

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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 <u>proposed law</u>.
- 6. Prohibit the operation of a platoon on a two-lane highway.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

- 1. Make technical changes.
- 2. Delete a provision that required the filing of a plan for general platoon operations.
- 3. Add a provision that authorizes the operation of a platoon if the platoon operator has an operational plan approved by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, and the Dept. of Transportation and Development.
- 4. Add a provision that authorizes the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, and the Dept. of Transportation and Development to promulgate rules as necessary to implement the provisions of <u>proposed law</u>.