

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to begin studying and testing autonomous motor vehicles and consider the promulgation of rules for the safe operation of such vehicles on the roads of the state.

WHEREAS, "autonomous motor vehicle" means a vehicle equipped with technology that has the capability to drive the vehicle without any control or monitoring by a human operator; a vehicle equipped with active safety systems or driver assistance systems, including a system to provide electronic blind spot assistance, crash avoidance, emergency braking, parking assistance, adaptive cruise control, lane keep assistance, lane departure warning, or traffic jam and queuing assistance is not an autonomous vehicle unless the system alone or in combination with other systems enables the vehicle on which the technology is installed to drive without any control or monitoring by a human operator; and

WHEREAS, significant advances have been made in both technology and legislation relevant to autonomous motor vehicles with numerous major companies and research organizations developing working prototype autonomous vehicles, including Mercedes-Benz, General Motors, Nissan, Toyota, Audi, Volvo, Oxford University, and Google, and as of 2013, four U.S. states have passed laws permitting autonomous vehicles and such vehicles could be available to the public in the next ten to twenty years; and

WHEREAS, autonomous vehicles could significantly reduce traffic fatalities and crashes by reducing or eliminating driver error, which is a contributing factor in over ninety percent of all crashes; and

WHEREAS, autonomous vehicles could reduce congestion and improve fuel economy through better utilization of existing highway capacity and more efficient operation of the vehicle's acceleration and braking controls.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to begin studying and testing autonomous motor vehicles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development, as part of its study, determine the need for statutory authority or the promulgation of regulations regarding the operation of autonomous motor vehicles on roadways within the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development shall submit a report to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works recommending legislation or regulatory action that may be required for the safe use of autonomous vehicles prior to the final adjournment of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES