
DIGEST

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Leger

HB No. 938

Abstract: Authorizes the research and testing of autonomous motor vehicles in the state.

Proposed law allows testing of autonomous vehicles on public roads if the testing entity has met various requirements, including but not limited to submitting a certificate of mandatory liability insurance or proof of self-insurance acceptable to the Dept. of Transportation and Development, a person with a valid driver's license is in the vehicle and is able to intervene if there is a failure in the technology, and the manufacturer applies for and receives an autonomous motor vehicle permit from the Dept. of Transportation and Development.

Proposed law requires that the application for an autonomous motor vehicle permit contain certifications, including, but not limited to a certification that the autonomous vehicle has a mechanism to disengage the autonomous technology accessible to the operator, certification that the autonomous vehicle has a system to alert the operator if an autonomous technology failure is detected, and a certification that the autonomous vehicle and its technology meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, 49 CFR 571, for the vehicle's model year.

Proposed law requires the secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development to submit a report recommending any additional legislation or regulatory action that may be required for the safe testing and use of autonomous vehicles by the final adjournment of the 2016 Regular Session.

Proposed law limits the liability of non-autonomous motor vehicle manufacturers who manufacture vehicles that are later converted to autonomous motor vehicles.

(Adds R.S. 32:691 - 693)