

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

MOTOR VEHICLES: Urges and requests the DOTD to study autonomous vehicles

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and  
11 Development consider the promulgation of regulations authorizing the operation of  
12 autonomous motor vehicles on roadways within the state with the regulations including the  
13 following:

14           (1) Requirements that an autonomous motor vehicle must meet before it may be  
15 operated on a roadway within this state.

16           (2) Minimum safety standards for autonomous vehicles and their operation.

17           (3) Testing and development of autonomous motor vehicles.

18           (4) Restriction of the testing of autonomous motor vehicles to specific geographic  
19 areas.

20           (5) Other requirements as the department determines to be necessary.

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

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)]

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Leger

HR No. 133

Urges and requests the DOTD to study and conduct testing of autonomous motor vehicles.