

**SB226 INTRODUCED**



1 SB226  
2 8XG7222-1  
3 By Senator Allen  
4 RFD: Transportation and Energy  
5 First Read: 19-Mar-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would authorize motor vehicles to be operated on the public roads of this state that are equipped with an automated driving system, which is defined as hardware and software that performs the entire dynamic driving task on a sustained basis, under certain conditions.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to motor vehicles; to provide requirements for the authorization and use of motor vehicles equipped with an automated driving system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. For purposes of this act, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) ADS-EQUIPPED VEHICLE. A vehicle equipped with an automated driving system.

(2) AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEM or ADS. The hardware and software that are collectively capable of performing the entire dynamic driving task on a sustained basis regardless of whether it is limited to a specific operational design domain.





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57 pursuant to subsection (b).

58           b. All applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety  
59 Standards, except to the extent an exemption has been granted  
60 under applicable federal law.

61           (2) The ADS-equipped vehicle shall be registered and  
62 titled in accordance with the laws of this state.

63           (b) An ADS-equipped vehicle may be operated on the  
64 public roads of this state without a conventional human driver  
65 physically present in the vehicle if the vehicle is capable of  
66 achieving a minimal risk condition.

67           Section 3. An ADS-equipped vehicle may operate on  
68 public roads in this state only if a person submits proof to  
69 the Department of Revenue of financial responsibility  
70 satisfactory to the department that the ADS-equipped vehicle  
71 meets all of the requirements of the Mandatory Liability  
72 Insurance Act, Chapter 7A of Title 32, Code of Alabama 1975.

73           Section 4. If a traffic accident occurs that involves  
74 an ADS-equipped vehicle that is being operated without a  
75 conventional human driver, the requirements of Chapter 10 of  
76 Title 32, Code of Alabama 1975, do not apply to the  
77 ADS-equipped vehicle, provided all of the following occur:

78           (1) The owner of the ADS-equipped vehicle, or an  
79 individual acting on behalf of the owner, promptly contacts  
80 the applicable law enforcement agency to report the crash.

81           (2) If the ADS-equipped vehicle has the capability of  
82 promptly alerting a law enforcement agency or emergency  
83 services, the vehicle alerts a law enforcement agency or  
84 emergency services to the traffic accident.



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85           (3) The ADS-equipped vehicle remains at the scene or in  
86 the immediate vicinity of the crash until law enforcement  
87 arrives.

88           (4) The ADS-equipped vehicle's registration and  
89 insurance information is provided to the parties affected by  
90 the traffic accident.

91           Section 5. A conventional human driver of an  
92 ADS-equipped vehicle is required to have a valid driver  
93 license for the class of vehicle being operated.

94           Section 6. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this act  
95 or in Chapter 9B of Title 32, Code of Alabama 1975, and  
96 notwithstanding any other provision of law, ADS-equipped  
97 vehicles and automated driving systems are governed  
98 exclusively by this act.

99           (b) No state or local entity may impose requirements,  
100 including performance standards, specific to the operation of  
101 ADS-equipped vehicles, automated driving systems, or automated  
102 commercial vehicles as defined in Section 32-9B-1, Code of  
103 Alabama 1975, except as specifically authorized by this act.

104           (c) No municipality or other local or state entity may  
105 impose a tax on, or impose requirements on ADS-equipped  
106 vehicles or automated driving systems, where the tax or other  
107 requirement relates specifically to the operation of  
108 ADS-equipped vehicles.

109           Section 7. When engaged, the automated driving system  
110 shall be deemed the driver or operator of the ADS-equipped  
111 vehicle for the purpose of assessing compliance with  
112 applicable traffic or motor vehicle laws and shall be deemed





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