

SB226 INTRODUCED



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



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

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.



SB226 INTRODUCED

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.



SB226 INTRODUCED

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



SB226 INTRODUCED

113 to satisfy all physical acts required by a driver or operator
114 of a vehicle via electronic means.

115 Section 8. (a) Liability for a traffic accident
116 involving an ADS-equipped vehicle shall be determined in
117 accordance with applicable state law, federal law, or common
118 law.

119 (b) The original manufacturer of a vehicle converted by
120 a third party into an ADS-equipped vehicle may not be held
121 liable in, and shall have a defense to and be dismissed from,
122 any legal action brought against the original manufacturer by
123 any individual injured due to an alleged vehicle defect caused
124 by the conversion of the vehicle, or by equipment installed by
125 the converter, unless the alleged defect was present in the
126 vehicle as originally manufactured.

127 Section 9. (a) An ADS-equipped vehicle that is designed
128 to be operated exclusively by an automated driving system for
129 all trips shall not be subject to motor vehicle equipment laws
130 or rules of this state that relate to or support motor vehicle
131 operation by a conventional human driver but are not relevant
132 to an automated driving system.

133 (b) Any ADS-equipped vehicle or automated commercial
134 vehicle, as defined in Section 32-9B-1, Code of Alabama 1975,
135 may be equipped with ADS marker lamps in accordance with the
136 SAE Recommended Practice and Standard guidelines, including
137 SAE J3134. For purposes of this section, an ADS marker lamp
138 means a device that emits light to indicate when an ADS is
139 engaged in the operation of the vehicle.

140 Section 10. This act shall become effective October 1,



SB226 INTRODUCED

141 2024.