

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 937

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

MOTOR VEHICLES: Authorizes the operation of autonomous motor vehicles

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part XVII of Chapter 3 of Title 32 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 32:691 and 692, relative to operating autonomous motor vehicles;
4 to authorize the operation of autonomous motor vehicles in the state; to provide for
5 definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Part XVII of Chapter 3 of Title 32 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
8 1950, comprised of R.S. 32:691 and 692, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 PART XVII. AUTONOMOUS MOTOR VEHICLES

10 §691. Definitions

11 As used in this part, the following words, terms, and phrases have the
12 meaning ascribed to them in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates a
13 different meaning:

14 (1) "Autonomous motor vehicle" means a vehicle equipped with technology
15 that has the capability to drive the vehicle without active control or monitoring by
16 a human operator; a vehicle equipped with active safety systems or driver assistance
17 systems, including a system to provide electronic blind spot assistance, crash
18 avoidance, emergency braking, parking assistance, adaptive cruise control, lane keep
19 assistance, lane departure warning, or traffic jam and queuing assistance is not an
20 autonomous vehicle unless the system alone or in combination with other systems

1 enables the vehicle on which the technology is installed to drive without active
2 control or monitoring by a human operator.

3 (2) "Operator" means the person who causes the vehicle's autonomous
4 technology to engage, regardless of whether the person is physically present in the
5 vehicle at that time.

6 (3) "Manufacturer" means the person or entity that originally manufactures
7 a vehicle and equips autonomous technology on the originally completed vehicle, or
8 in the case of a vehicle not originally equipped with autonomous technology by the
9 vehicle manufacturer, the person or entity that modifies the vehicle by installing
10 autonomous technology to convert it to an autonomous vehicle after the vehicle was
11 originally manufactured.

12 §692. Autonomous motor vehicles; operation

13 A. The Department of Transportation and Development shall adopt
14 regulations authorizing the operation of autonomous motor vehicles on roadways
15 within the state.

16 B. The regulations to be adopted by the Department of Transportation and
17 Development pursuant to Subsection A of this Section shall:

18 (1) Set forth requirements that an autonomous motor vehicle must meet
19 before it may be operated on a roadway within this state.

20 (2) Establish minimum safety standards for autonomous vehicles and their
21 operation.

22 (3) Provide for the testing, research, and development of autonomous motor
23 vehicles.

24 (4) Restrict the testing of autonomous motor vehicles to specific geographic
25 areas.

26 (5) Set forth other such requirements as the department determines to be
27 necessary.

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)]

Leger

HB No. 937

Abstract: Authorizes the operation of autonomous motor vehicles in the state.

Proposed law defines "autonomous motor vehicle", "operator", and "manufacturer" and authorizes the operation of such vehicles on the roadways of the state.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to adopt regulations regarding the operation of autonomous motor vehicles in La. Specifies that these regulations shall:

- (1) Set forth requirements that an autonomous motor vehicle must meet before it may be operated on a roadway within this state.
- (2) Establish minimum safety standards for autonomous vehicles and their operation.
- (3) Provide for the testing, research, and development of autonomous motor vehicles.
- (4) Restrict the testing of autonomous motor vehicles to specific geographic areas.
- (5) Set forth other requirements as the department deems necessary.

(Adds R.S. 32:691 and 692)