
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1958 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, HELM, SAYLOR, MILLARD,
NELSON, EVERETT, MUSTIO, DIAMOND, TAYLOR, CHARLTON AND FEE,
DECEMBER 11, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, DECEMBER 11, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for
3 definitions; in rules of the road in general, providing for
4 platooning; and providing for autonomous vehicles.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions to read:

9 § 102. Definitions.

10 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent
11 provisions of this title which are applicable to specific
12 provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when
13 used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly
14 indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

15 * * *

16 "Highly automated work zone vehicle." A motor vehicle
17 equipped either with an automated driving system, or connected
18 by wireless communication or other technology to another vehicle

1 allowing for coordinated or controlled movement, used in an
2 active work zone as implemented by the department or the
3 Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

4 * * *

5 "Platoon." A group of individual military vehicles or motor
6 carrier vehicles operated by humans traveling in a unified
7 manner at electronically coordinated speeds at following
8 distances that are closer than would be reasonable and prudent
9 without such coordination.

10 * * *

11 Section 2. Title 75 is amended by adding a section to read:
12 § 3317. Platooning.

13 (a) General rule.--Nonlead vehicles in a platoon shall not
14 be subject to the provisions of section 3310 (relating to
15 following too closely).

16 (b) Visual identifier.--All platooning motor carrier
17 vehicles must be marked with a visual identifier on the power
18 unit. The department, after consultation with the Pennsylvania
19 State Police, shall publish guidelines in the Pennsylvania
20 Bulletin establishing the criteria and placement of the visual
21 identifier. The guidelines shall be in effect until Federal
22 guidelines or regulations are promulgated.

23 (c) Restrictions.--A platoon shall observe the following
24 restrictions:

25 (1) A maximum of three vehicles shall be in a platoon.

26 (2) Vehicles in a platoon shall travel only on limited
27 access highways or interstate highways, unless otherwise
28 posted.

29 (3) The department shall have the ability to restrict
30 movement under this section during inclement weather, as

1 determined by department regulations.

2 Section 3. Title 75 is amended by adding a chapter to read:

3 CHAPTER 85

4 AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

5 Sec.

6 8501. (Reserved).

7 8502. Highly automated work zone vehicle.

8 § 8501. (Reserved).

9 § 8502. Highly automated work zone vehicle.

10 (a) General rule.--The department or the Pennsylvania
11 Turnpike Commission, as applicable, shall authorize the
12 locations in Pennsylvania, on a periodic basis, to permit the
13 deployment of a highly automated work zone vehicle.

14 (b) Requirements.--When operating in an active work zone, a
15 highly automated work zone vehicle does not require a human
16 operator.

17 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 90 days.