

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3416

To establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Rural and Mountainous Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding the testing and deployment of highly automated vehicles and automated driving systems in areas that are rural, remote, mountainous, insular, or unmapped.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2017

Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Rural and Mountainous Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding the testing and deployment of highly automated vehicles and automated driving systems in areas that are rural, remote, mountainous, insular, or unmapped.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. RURAL AND MOUNTAINOUS ADVISORY COUN-**
2 **CIL.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Subject to the availability of
4 appropriations, not later than 6 months after the date of
5 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation
6 shall establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-
7 ministration a Rural and Mountainous Advisory Council
8 (hereinafter referred to as the “Council”).

9 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—Members of the Council shall in-
10 clude a diverse group representative of business, academia
11 and independent researchers, State and local authorities,
12 safety and consumer advocates, engineers, labor organiza-
13 tions, environmental experts, a representative of the Na-
14 tional Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and other
15 members determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.
16 The Council shall be composed of not less than 15 and
17 not more than 30 members appointed by the Secretary.

18 (c) **TERMS.**—Members of the Council shall be ap-
19 pointed by the Secretary of Transportation and shall serve
20 for a term of three years.

21 (d) **VACANCIES.**—Any vacancy occurring in the mem-
22 bership of the Council shall be filled in the same manner
23 as the original appointment for the position being vacated.
24 The vacancy shall not affect the power of the remaining
25 members to execute the duties of the Council.

1 (e) DUTIES.—The Council shall undertake informa-
2 tion gathering activities, develop technical advice, and
3 present best practices or recommendations to the Sec-
4 retary regarding the testing and deployment of highly
5 automated vehicles and automated driving systems in
6 areas that are rural, remote, mountainous, insular, or
7 unmapped to evaluate operational limitations caused by
8 natural geographical or man-made features, or adverse
9 weather conditions, and to enhance the safety and reli-
10 ability of highly automated vehicles and automated driving
11 systems used in such areas with such features or condi-
12 tions.

13 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The recommendations
14 of the Council shall also be reported to the Committee on
15 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
16 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
17 tation of the Senate.

18 (g) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The es-
19 tablishment and operation of the Council shall conform to
20 the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act
21 (5 U.S.C. App.).

22 (h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—On request of the
23 Council, the Secretary shall provide such technical assist-
24 ance to the Council as the Secretary determines to be nec-
25 essary to carry out the Council's duties.

1 (i) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—On the re-
2 quest of the Council, the Secretary may detail, with or
3 without reimbursement, any of the personnel of the De-
4 partment of Transportation to the Council to assist the
5 Council in carrying out its duties. Any detail shall not in-
6 terrupt or otherwise affect the civil service status or privi-
7 leges of the Federal employee.

8 (j) PAYMENT AND EXPENSES.—Members of the
9 Council shall serve without pay, except travel and per diem
10 will be paid each member for meetings called by the Sec-
11 retary.

12 (k) TERMINATION.—The Council shall terminate 6
13 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

14 (l) DEFINITIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section—

16 (A) the term “automated driving system”
17 means the hardware and software that are col-
18 lectively capable of performing the entire dy-
19 namic driving task on a sustained basis, regard-
20 less of whether such system is limited to a spe-
21 cific operational design domain;

22 (B) the term “dynamic driving task”
23 means all of the real time operational and tac-
24 tical functions required to operate a vehicle in
25 on-road traffic, excluding the strategic func-

1 tions such as trip scheduling and selection of
2 destinations and waypoints, and including—

3 (i) lateral vehicle motion control via
4 steering;

5 (ii) longitudinal vehicle motion control
6 via acceleration and deceleration;

7 (iii) monitoring the driving environ-
8 ment via object and event detection, rec-
9 ognition, classification, and response prep-
10 aration;

11 (iv) object and event response execu-
12 tion;

13 (v) maneuver planning; and

14 (vi) enhancing conspicuity via light-
15 ing, signaling, and gesturing;

16 (C) the term “highly automated vehicle”—

17 (i) means a motor vehicle equipped
18 with an automated driving system; and

19 (ii) does not include a commercial
20 motor vehicle (as defined in section 31101
21 of title 49, United States Code); and

22 (D) the term “operational design domain”

23 means the specific conditions under which a
24 given driving automation system or feature
25 thereof is designed to function.

1 (2) REVISIONS TO CERTAIN DEFINITIONS.—

2 (A) If SAE International (or its successor
3 organization) revises the definition of any of the
4 terms defined in subparagraph (A), (B), or (D)
5 of paragraph (1) in Recommended Practice Re-
6 port J3016, it shall notify the Secretary of the
7 revision. The Secretary shall publish a notice in
8 the Federal Register to inform the public of the
9 new definition unless, within 90 days after re-
10 ceiving notice of the new definition and after
11 opening a period for public comment on the
12 new definition, the Secretary notifies SAE
13 International (or its successor organization)
14 that the Secretary has determined that the new
15 definition does not meet the need for motor ve-
16 hicle safety, or is otherwise inconsistent with
17 the purposes of chapter 301 of title 49, United
18 States Code. If the Secretary so notifies SAE
19 International (or its successor organization),
20 the existing definition in paragraph (1) shall re-
21 main in effect.

22 (B) If the Secretary does not reject a defi-
23 nition revised by SAE International (or its suc-
24 cessor organization) as described in subpara-
25 graph (A), the Secretary shall promptly make

1 any conforming amendments to the regulations
2 and standards of the Secretary that are nec-
3 essary. The revised definition shall apply for
4 purposes of this section. The requirements of
5 section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall
6 not apply to the making of any such conforming
7 amendments.

8 (C) Pursuant to section 553 of title 5,
9 United States Code, the Secretary may update
10 any of the definitions in subparagraph (A), (B),
11 or (D) of paragraph (1) if the Secretary deter-
12 mines that materially changed circumstances
13 regarding highly automated vehicles have im-
14 pacted motor vehicle safety such that the defini-
15 tions need to be updated to reflect such cir-
16 cumstances.

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