

Senator Wayne A. Harper proposes the following substitute bill:

VEHICLE PLATOONING AMENDMENTS

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions of the Traffic Code related to safe following distance.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines "connected platooning system";
- ▶ provides an exemption to a minimum following distance requirement for the operator of a vehicle that is part of a connected platooning system; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

21 AMENDS:

41-6a-711, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapters 277 and 412

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

25 Section 1. Section **41-6a-711** is amended to read:



26 **41-6a-711. Following another vehicle -- Safe distance -- Exceptions -- Penalty.**27 (1) As used in this section, "connected platooning system" means a system that uses
28 vehicle-to-vehicle communication to electronically coordinate the speed and braking of a lead
29 vehicle with the speed and braking of one or more following vehicles.30 [~~(1)~~] (2) The operator of a vehicle:31 (a) may not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having
32 regard for the:

33 (i) speed of the vehicles;

34 (ii) traffic upon the highway; and

35 (iii) condition of the highway; and

36 (b) shall follow at a distance so that at least two seconds elapse before reaching the
37 location of the vehicle directly in front of the operator's vehicle.38 [~~(2)~~] (3) Subsection [~~(1)~~] (2)(b) does not apply to:39 (a) funeral processions or to congested traffic conditions resulting in prevailing vehicle
40 speeds of less than 35 miles per hour; or41 [~~(b) a connected vehicle technology testing program that uses networked wireless~~
42 communication among vehicles, infrastructure, or communication devices that is:]43 [~~(i) approved by the Department of Transportation in consultation with the Department~~
44 of Public Safety; and]45 [~~(ii) conducted outside of an urbanized boundary as defined by the United States~~
46 Census Bureau.]47 [~~(3) The Department of Transportation shall report the results of the testing program~~
48 conducted under Subsection (2)(b) to the Transportation Interim Committee by no later than
49 October 30 of any year that a testing program is conducted.]50 (b) the operator of a vehicle that is:51 (i) part of a connected platooning system; and52 (ii) not the lead vehicle.53 (4) A violation of Subsection [~~(1)~~] (2) is an infraction.