

SENATE, No. 343

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Beck, Kyrillos and Stack

SYNOPSIS

Directs MVC to establish driver's license endorsement for autonomous vehicles.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning autonomous vehicles, and supplementing
2 chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey

6

7 1. For the purposes of this act:

8 “Artificial intelligence” means the use of computers and related
9 equipment to enable a machine to duplicate or mimic the behavior
10 of human beings.

11 “Autonomous mode” means the operation of the autonomous
12 vehicle without the active control of a human being.

13 “Autonomous vehicle” means a motor vehicle that uses artificial
14 intelligence, sensors, global positioning system coordinates, or any
15 other technology to carry out the mechanical operations of driving
16 without the active control and continuous monitoring of a human
17 operator.

18 “Sensors” include, without limitation, cameras, lasers, and radar.

19

20 2. a. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall
21 establish a driver’s license endorsement for the operation of
22 autonomous vehicles on the highways, roads, and streets of this
23 State. Except for a person testing an autonomous vehicle under the
24 regulations adopted by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
25 Motor Vehicle Commission pursuant to section 3 of P.L. ,
26 c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a person shall not
27 operate an autonomous vehicle in autonomous mode unless that
28 person has obtained an endorsement on that person’s driver’s
29 license to operate an autonomous vehicle.

30 b. An endorsement to a driver’s license allowing a person to
31 operate an autonomous vehicle shall not require that a person
32 actively drive the autonomous vehicle.

33

34 3. Within 12 months of the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.)
35 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Chief Administrator
36 of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall adopt
37 regulations, pursuant to the provisions of the “Administrative
38 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), authorizing
39 the operation of autonomous vehicles on highways, roads, and
40 streets in this State. The regulations shall include, but not be
41 limited to:

42 a. Requirements an autonomous vehicle shall meet before it
43 may be operated on any highway, road, or street within this State;

44 b. Requirements for proof of insurance as required by section 1
45 of P.L.1972, c.197 (C.39:6B-1) to test or operate an autonomous
46 vehicle on any highway, road, or street within this State, in
47 consultation with the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance,
48 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1972, c.200 (C.39:3-29.1);

- 1 c. Requirements for the registration of the autonomous vehicle,
2 pursuant to R.S.39:3-4;
3 d. Minimum safety standards for autonomous vehicles and their
4 operation;
5 e. Requirements for testing autonomous vehicles;
6 f. Restrictions for testing autonomous vehicles in specified
7 geographic areas; and
8 g. Any other requirements the chief administrator determines to
9 be necessary.

10

11 4. No provision in this act, or in any manual, test, or
12 administrative procedure developed to implement the provisions of
13 this act, shall be deemed to expand the requirements set forth in
14 federal law or regulation. This section shall not be deemed to limit
15 the authority of the chief administrator, or the authority of any State
16 department or agency, to promulgate, pursuant to other provisions
17 of State law, standards and procedures on vehicle inspections that
18 are consistent with federal law and regulation.

19

20 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

21

22

23

STATEMENT

24

25 This bill directs the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
26 (MVC) to establish a driver's license endorsement for the operation
27 of autonomous vehicles on the highways, roads, and streets of this
28 State. "Autonomous vehicle" means a motor vehicle that uses
29 artificial intelligence, sensors, global positioning system
30 coordinates, or any other technology that enables it to drive itself
31 without the active control and continuous monitoring of a human
32 operator.

33

34 Within 12 months of the effective date of the bill, the Chief
35 Administrator of the MVC (chief administrator) is required to
36 establish regulations authorizing the operation of autonomous
37 vehicles that include, but are not limited to: requirements for the
38 autonomous vehicle before it may be operated on highways, roads,
39 or streets; requirements for proof of insurance to test or operate an
40 autonomous vehicle on highways, roads, or streets in consultation
41 with the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance; requirements for
42 registration; minimum safety standards for autonomous vehicles
43 and their operation; requirements for testing autonomous vehicles;
44 restrictions for testing autonomous vehicles in specified geographic
45 areas; and any other requirements the chief administrator
46 determines to be necessary. Nothing in this bill expands on federal
47 law or limits the authority of the chief administrator, or authority of
other State department or agency, to promulgate standards and

S343 T.KEAN, SACCO

4

1 procedures on vehicle inspections that are consistent with federal
2 law or regulation.

3 The bill provides that a person testing an autonomous vehicle is
4 not required to obtain an endorsement on that person's driver's
5 license but, instead, is subject to the regulations adopted by the
6 chief administrator regarding the testing of autonomous vehicles.