

ASSEMBLY, No. 1187

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Holley and Assemblywoman Quijano

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. A person shall not operate an autonomous vehicle in
24 autonomous mode unless that person has obtained an endorsement
25 on that person’s driver’s license to operate an autonomous vehicle.

26 b. An endorsement to a driver’s license allowing a person to
27 operate an autonomous vehicle shall not require that a person
28 actively drive the autonomous vehicle.

29

30 3. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
31 Commission shall adopt regulations, pursuant to the provisions of
32 the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
33 et seq.), authorizing the operation of autonomous vehicles on
34 highways, roads, and streets in this State. The regulations shall
35 include, but not be limited to:

36 a. Requirements an autonomous vehicle must meet before it
37 may be operated on any highway, road, or street within this State;

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

43 c. Requirements for the registration of the autonomous vehicle,
44 pursuant to R.S.39:3-4;

45 d. Minimum safety standards for autonomous vehicles and their
46 operation;

47 e. Requirements for testing autonomous vehicles;

1 f. Restrictions for testing autonomous vehicles in specified
2 geographic areas; and

3 g. Any other requirements the chief administrator determines to
4 be necessary.

5
6 4. No provision in this act, or in any manual, test, or
7 administrative procedure developed to implement the provisions of
8 this act, shall be deemed to expand the requirements set forth in
9 federal law or regulation. This section shall not be deemed to limit
10 the authority of the chief administrator, or the authority of any State
11 department or agency, to promulgate, pursuant to other provisions
12 of State law, standards and procedures on vehicle inspections that
13 are consistent with federal law and regulation.

14
15 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

16
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18 STATEMENT

19
20 This bill directs the Motor Vehicle Commission to establish a
21 driver's license endorsement for the operation of autonomous
22 vehicles on the highways, roads, and streets of this State.
23 "Autonomous vehicle" means a motor vehicle that uses artificial
24 intelligence, sensors, global positioning system coordinates, or any
25 other technology that enables it to drive itself without the active
26 control and continuous monitoring of a human operator.

27 The Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission shall
28 also establish regulations authorizing the operation of autonomous
29 vehicles that shall include, but are not limited to: requirements the
30 autonomous vehicle must meet before it may be operated on
31 highways, roads, or streets; requirements for proof of insurance to
32 test or operate an autonomous vehicle on highways, roads, or streets
33 in consultation with the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance;
34 requirements for registration; minimum safety standards for
35 autonomous vehicles and their operation; requirements for testing
36 autonomous vehicles; restrictions for testing autonomous vehicles
37 in specified geographic areas; and any other requirements the chief
38 administrator determines to be necessary. Nothing in this act shall
39 expand on federal law or limit the authority of the chief
40 administrator, or authority of other State department or agency, to
41 promulgate standards and procedures on vehicle inspections that are
42 consistent with federal law or regulation.