

SENATE BILL No. 379

By Committee on Transportation

1-24

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicles; relating to autonomous motor
2 vehicles; providing for the use and regulation thereof.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. As used in sections 1 through 4, and amendments thereto:

6 (a) "Automated driving system" means hardware and software that,
7 when installed on a motor vehicle and engaged, are collectively capable of
8 performing, without any intervention or supervision by a human operator:

9 (1) All aspects of the entire dynamic driving task for the vehicle on a
10 sustained basis; and

11 (2) any maneuvers necessary to respond to a failure of the system.

12 (b) "Autonomous motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle as defined in
13 K.S.A. 8-1424, and amendments thereto, on which an automated driving
14 system is installed. "Autonomous motor vehicle" includes autonomous
15 commercial motor vehicles.

16 (c) "Commercial motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle with a gross
17 vehicle weight or gross combination vehicle weight of 10,001 pounds or
18 more and used in furtherance of commerce.

19 (d) (1) "Entire dynamic driving task" means the operational and
20 tactical aspects of operating a vehicle. "Entire dynamic driving task"
21 includes:

22 (A) Operational aspects, including steering, braking, accelerating and
23 monitoring the vehicle and the roadway; and

24 (B) tactical aspects, including responding to events, determining
25 when to change lanes, turning, using signals and other related actions.

26 (2) "Entire dynamic driving task" does not include strategic aspects,
27 including determining destinations or waypoints.

28 (e) "Highway" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 8-1424, and
29 amendments thereto.

30 (f) "Human operator" means a natural person in an autonomous motor
31 vehicle who controls the entire dynamic driving task.

32 (g) "Middle mile" means the intrastate commercial movement of
33 goods, in a business-to-business capacity, between two or more fixed
34 points on fixed, repeatable routes.

35 (h) "Owner" means a person who:

36 (1) Holds the legal title of a vehicle;

1 (2) has the legal right of possession of a vehicle; or

2 (3) has the legal right of control of a vehicle.

3 Sec. 2. No city or county shall enact any ordinance or resolution
4 regulating or prohibiting the use of an autonomous motor vehicle. Any
5 such ordinance or resolution shall be null and void.

6 Sec. 3. (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b), an
7 autonomous motor vehicle may operate only while traveling the middle
8 mile in this state with the automated driving system engaged regardless of
9 whether a human operator is physically present in the vehicle.

10 (b) An autonomous motor vehicle shall not operate on a highway in
11 this state with the automated driving system engaged unless the vehicle is:

12 (1) Capable of operating in compliance with applicable traffic laws of
13 this state;

14 (2) capable of lawfully and safely negotiating railroad crossings;

15 (3) in compliance with applicable federal law and federal motor
16 vehicle safety standards;

17 (4) operated in this state by an owner that maintains the required
18 insurance, self-insurance or other financial security required pursuant to
19 K.S.A. 40-3104, and amendments thereto; and

20 (5) capable of achieving minimal risk of harm or injury in the event
21 there is a failure of the automated driving system that renders the
22 automated driving system unable to perform the entire dynamic driving
23 task.

24 Sec. 4. (a) A human operator is required to have a valid driver's
25 license for the class of vehicle being operated when an automated driving
26 system is installed on a motor vehicle but is not engaged.

27 (b) When an automated driving system is installed and engaged on a
28 motor vehicle:

29 (1) The owner of the automated driving system is considered the
30 operator of the autonomous motor vehicle solely for the purpose of
31 assessing compliance with applicable traffic laws regardless of whether the
32 person is physically present in the vehicle while the vehicle is operating;
33 and

34 (2) a remote operator of the automated driving system is required to
35 have a valid driver's license for the class of vehicle being operated.

36 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
37 publication in the statute book.