

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to autonomous vehicles; amending s.
 3 316.85, F.S.; authorizing a person to engage
 4 autonomous technology to operate an autonomous vehicle
 5 in autonomous mode; providing that autonomous
 6 technology is deemed the operator of an autonomous
 7 vehicle operating in autonomous mode for purposes of
 8 determining compliance with traffic and motor vehicle
 9 laws; providing construction and applicability with
 10 respect to specific statutory provisions; amending s.
 11 319.145, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
 12 by the act; providing an effective date.

13
 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
 16 Section 1. Section 316.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 17 read:

18 316.85 Autonomous vehicles; operation; compliance with
 19 traffic and motor vehicle laws.—

20 (1) A person ~~who possesses a valid driver license~~ may
 21 operate an autonomous vehicle, or may engage autonomous
 22 technology to operate an autonomous vehicle in autonomous mode,
 23 on roads in this state if the vehicle is equipped with
 24 autonomous technology, as defined in s. 316.003.

25 (2) For purposes of determining compliance with all

26 applicable traffic and motor vehicle laws of this state chapter,
27 unless the context otherwise requires, autonomous technology a
28 person shall be deemed to be the operator of an autonomous
29 vehicle operating in autonomous mode when the person causes the
30 vehicle's autonomous technology to engage, regardless of whether
31 a human the person is physically present in the vehicle while
32 the vehicle is operating in autonomous mode.

33 (a) A traffic or motor vehicle law of this state does not
34 prohibit autonomous technology from being deemed the operator of
35 an autonomous vehicle operating in autonomous mode and does not
36 require a licensed human operator to operate an autonomous
37 vehicle, except as provided in s. 319.145(1).

38 (b) When an autonomous vehicle is operating in autonomous
39 mode, the autonomous technology shall be deemed to be validly
40 licensed as required by s. 322.03 to operate a motor vehicle and
41 to satisfy all examinations and physical acts required of a
42 human operator.

43 (c) Sections 316.062, 316.063, and 316.065 do not apply to
44 an autonomous vehicle operating in autonomous mode if, in the
45 event of a crash involving the vehicle, the vehicle owner, or a
46 person on behalf of the vehicle owner, promptly contacts law
47 enforcement to report the crash.

48 (d) Section 316.1975 does not apply to an autonomous
49 vehicle operating in autonomous mode.

50 (e) Sections 316.613 and 316.614 apply only to a human

51 person physically present in a motor vehicle.

52 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
53 319.145, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

54 319.145 Autonomous vehicles.—

55 (1) An autonomous vehicle registered in this state must
56 ~~continue to~~ meet applicable federal standards and regulations
57 for such motor vehicle. Regardless of whether a human operator
58 is physically present in the vehicle, the vehicle must:

59 (a) Have a system to safely alert a human ~~the~~ operator
60 physically present in the vehicle if an autonomous technology
61 failure is detected while the autonomous technology is engaged.
62 When an alert is given, the system must:

63 1. If a human operator is physically present in the
64 vehicle, require the human operator to take control of the
65 autonomous vehicle; or

66 2. If a human ~~the~~ operator does not, or is not able to,
67 take control of the autonomous vehicle, or if a human operator
68 is not physically present in the vehicle, be capable of bringing
69 the vehicle to a complete stop.

70 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.