

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to autonomous vehicle technology;
 3 defining the term "autonomous technology"; authorizing
 4 operation of vehicles equipped with autonomous
 5 technology by certain persons for testing purposes
 6 under certain conditions; directing the Department of
 7 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to prepare a report
 8 on the safe operation of vehicles equipped with
 9 autonomous technology on public roads; providing for
 10 content of the report; requiring submission of the
 11 report to the Legislature; providing an effective
 12 date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
 17 report on vehicles equipped with autonomous technology.-

18 (1) As used in this section, the term "autonomous
 19 technology" means technology installed on a vehicle enabling it
 20 to operate without the active control and continuous monitoring
 21 of a human operator. The term does not include individual safety
 22 systems or driver assistance systems such as electronic blind
 23 spot assistance, crash avoidance and emergency breaking systems,
 24 park assist, adaptive cruise control, lane keep assist, lane
 25 departure warning, or traffic jam and queuing assistant, unless
 26 any such system alone or in combination with other systems
 27 enables the vehicle to drive itself without the active control
 28 or continuous monitoring of a human operator.

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29 (2) Vehicles equipped with autonomous technology may be
30 operated on roads in this state by employees or contractors of
31 manufacturers of autonomous technology for the purpose of
32 testing the technology. For testing purposes, the vehicle may
33 operate without the active control of a human operator, but the
34 operation of the test vehicle must be continuously monitored in
35 a manner that allows active control over the vehicle to be
36 immediately assumed by a human operator.

37 (3) (a) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
38 shall prepare a report relating to the safe operation of
39 vehicles equipped with autonomous technology on public roads.
40 The report shall contain recommended legislative action and
41 proposed department rules to:

42 1. Establish a driver license endorsement to be required
43 for a resident to operate a vehicle with autonomous technology.

44 2. Establish rules of the road and other safety
45 requirements for vehicles with autonomous technology operating
46 with or without the physical presence of a driver.

47 3. Require each manufacturer of autonomous technology or
48 any vehicle equipped with autonomous technology to certify that
49 such technology conforms with all safety requirements
50 established by the department.

51 4. Permit the safe testing of autonomous technology on
52 public roads prior to the manufacturer's certification that such
53 technology conforms with all safety requirements established by
54 the department.

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55 | (b) No later than February 1, 2014, the department shall
56 | submit the report to President of the Senate and the Speaker of
57 | the House of Representatives.

58 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.