

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; amending s. 322.03, F.S.; providing that
 13 autonomous technology is deemed to be validly licensed
 14 under certain circumstances; amending s. 322.15, F.S.;
 15 conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective
 16 date.

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

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 20 Section 1. Section 316.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 21 read:

22 316.85 Autonomous vehicles; operation; compliance with
 23 traffic and motor vehicle laws.—

24 (1) A person ~~who possesses a valid driver license~~ may
 25 operate an autonomous vehicle, or may engage autonomous

26 | technology to operate an autonomous vehicle in autonomous mode,
27 | on roads in this state if the vehicle is equipped with
28 | autonomous technology~~7~~ as defined in s. 316.003.

29 | (2) For purposes of determining compliance with all
30 | applicable traffic and motor vehicle laws of this state chapter,
31 | unless the context otherwise requires, autonomous technology ~~a~~
32 | ~~person~~ shall be deemed to be the operator of an autonomous
33 | vehicle operating in autonomous mode ~~when the person causes the~~
34 | ~~vehicle's autonomous technology to engage,~~ regardless of whether
35 | a human ~~the~~ person is physically present in the vehicle while
36 | the vehicle is operating in autonomous mode.

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

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

47 | (c) Sections 316.062, 316.063, and 316.065 do not apply to
48 | an autonomous vehicle operating in autonomous mode if, in the
49 | event of a crash involving the vehicle, the vehicle owner, or a
50 | person on behalf of the vehicle owner, promptly contacts law

51 enforcement to report the crash.

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

54 (e) Sections 316.613 and 316.614 apply only to a human
 55 person physically present in a motor vehicle.

56 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 57 319.145, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

58 319.145 Autonomous vehicles.—

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

63 (a) Have a system to safely alert a human ~~the~~ operator
 64 physically present in the vehicle if an autonomous technology
 65 failure is detected while the autonomous technology is engaged.
 66 When an alert is given, the system must:

67 1. If a human operator is physically present in the
 68 vehicle, require the human operator to take control of the
 69 autonomous vehicle; or

70 2. If a human ~~the~~ operator does not, or is not able to,
 71 take control of the autonomous vehicle, or if a human operator
 72 is not physically present in the vehicle, be capable of bringing
 73 the vehicle to a complete stop.

74 Section 3. Subsections (5) and (6) of section 322.03,
 75 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6) and (7),

76 | respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added to that section
 77 | to read:

78 | 322.03 Drivers must be licensed; penalties.—

79 | (5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
 80 | contrary, when an autonomous vehicle as defined in s. 316.003 is
 81 | operating in autonomous mode, the autonomous technology as
 82 | defined in s. 316.003 shall be deemed to be validly licensed as
 83 | required by this section.

84 | Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 322.15, Florida
 85 | Statutes, is amended to read:

86 | 322.15 License to be carried and exhibited on demand;
 87 | fingerprint to be imprinted upon a citation.—

88 | (3) In relation to violations of subsection (1) or s.
 89 | 322.03(6) ~~322.03(5)~~, persons who cannot supply proof of a valid
 90 | driver license for the reason that the license was suspended for
 91 | failure to comply with that citation shall be issued a
 92 | suspension clearance by the clerk of the court for that citation
 93 | upon payment of the applicable penalty and fee for that
 94 | citation. If proof of a valid driver license is not provided to
 95 | the clerk of the court within 30 days, the person's driver
 96 | license shall again be suspended for failure to comply.

97 | Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.