

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to autonomous vehicles; amending s.
3 316.003, F.S.; defining the term "low-speed autonomous
4 delivery vehicle"; amending s. 316.2122, F.S.;
5 authorizing the operation of a low-speed autonomous
6 delivery vehicle on certain streets and roads;
7 providing construction; authorizing the operation of a
8 low-speed autonomous delivery vehicle on streets or
9 roads with a posted speed limit of up to 45 miles per
10 hour under specified conditions; providing
11 requirements for low-speed autonomous delivery
12 vehicles; amending s. 316.215, F.S.; providing that
13 certain fully autonomous vehicles are not subject to
14 certain provisions of law or regulations; amending s.
15 316.2126, F.S.; providing that statutory provisions
16 regarding the authorized use of golf carts, low-speed
17 vehicles, and utility vehicles are not applicable to
18 low-speed autonomous delivery vehicles; amending ss.
19 316.306 and 655.960, F.S.; conforming cross-
20 references; providing an effective date.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23
24 Section 1. Subsections (38) through (105) of section
25 316.003, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (39)

26 | through (106), respectively, present subsection (62) is amended,
 27 | and a new subsection (38) is added to that section, to read:

28 | 316.003 Definitions.—The following words and phrases, when
 29 | used in this chapter, shall have the meanings respectively
 30 | ascribed to them in this section, except where the context
 31 | otherwise requires:

32 | (38) LOW-SPEED AUTONOMOUS DELIVERY VEHICLE.—A fully
 33 | autonomous vehicle that meets the definition of a low-speed
 34 | vehicle in 49 C.F.R. s. 571.3 and is not designed for, or
 35 | capable of, human occupancy.

36 | (63)~~(62)~~ PRIVATE ROAD OR DRIVEWAY.—Except as otherwise
 37 | provided in paragraph (85) (b) ~~(84) (b)~~, any privately owned way
 38 | or place used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having
 39 | express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other
 40 | persons.

41 | Section 2. Section 316.2122, Florida Statutes, is amended
 42 | to read:

43 | 316.2122 Operation of a low-speed vehicle, ~~or mini truck,~~
 44 | or low-speed autonomous delivery vehicle on certain roadways.—

45 | (1) The operation of a low-speed vehicle as defined in s.
 46 | 320.01 or a mini truck as defined in s. 320.01 on any road is
 47 | authorized with the following restrictions:

48 | (a)~~(1)~~ A low-speed vehicle or mini truck may be operated
 49 | only on streets where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per
 50 | hour or less. This does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle or mini

51 truck from crossing a road or street at an intersection where
 52 the road or street has a posted speed limit of more than 35
 53 miles per hour.

54 (b)-(2) A low-speed vehicle must be equipped with
 55 headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, taillamps, reflex
 56 reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, seat
 57 belts, and vehicle identification numbers.

58 (c)-(3) A low-speed vehicle or mini truck must be
 59 registered and insured in accordance with s. 320.02 and titled
 60 pursuant to chapter 319.

61 (d)-(4) Any person operating a low-speed vehicle or mini
 62 truck must have in his or her possession a valid driver license.

63 (2) The operation of a low-speed autonomous delivery
 64 vehicle on any road is authorized with the following
 65 restrictions:

66 (a) A low-speed autonomous delivery vehicle may operate
 67 only on streets or roads where the posted speed limit is 35
 68 miles per hour or less. This paragraph does not prohibit a low-
 69 speed autonomous delivery vehicle from crossing a road or street
 70 at an intersection where the road or street has a posted speed
 71 limit of more than 35 miles per hour.

72 (b) A low-speed autonomous delivery vehicle may operate on
 73 a street or road with a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles
 74 per hour, but no more than 45 miles per hour, if:

75 1. The low-speed autonomous delivery vehicle travels no

76 more than 1 continuous mile on such a street or road, except
77 that the vehicle may travel in excess of 1 continuous mile if
78 authorized by the entity with jurisdiction over the street or
79 road;

80 2. The low-speed autonomous delivery vehicle operates
81 exclusively in the right lane, other than for the purpose of
82 completing a turn; and

83 3. On a two-lane street or road where overtaking and
84 passing another vehicle is unsafe because of traffic moving in
85 the opposite direction or because of other unsafe conditions,
86 and five or more vehicles are formed in a line behind the
87 autonomous delivery vehicle, the low-speed autonomous delivery
88 vehicle exits the roadway wherever a sufficient area for a safe
89 turn-out exists, to permit the vehicles following to proceed.

90 (c) A low-speed autonomous delivery vehicle must be
91 equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps,
92 taillamps, reflex reflectors, and vehicle identification
93 numbers.

94 (d) Federal regulations adopted by the National Highway
95 Traffic Safety Administration shall supersede this subsection
96 when found to be in conflict with this subsection.

97 (e) A low-speed autonomous delivery vehicle must be
98 covered by a policy of automobile insurance which provides the
99 coverage required by s. 627.749(2)(a)1., 2., and 3. The coverage
100 requirements of this paragraph may be satisfied by automobile

101 insurance maintained by the owner of a low-speed autonomous
102 delivery vehicle, the owner of the teleoperation system, the
103 remote human operator, or a combination thereof.

104 ~~(3)-(5)~~ A county or municipality may prohibit the operation
105 of low-speed vehicles or mini trucks on any road under its
106 jurisdiction if the governing body of the county or municipality
107 determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of
108 safety.

109 ~~(4)-(6)~~ The Department of Transportation may prohibit the
110 operation of low-speed vehicles or mini trucks on any road under
111 its jurisdiction if it determines that such prohibition is
112 necessary in the interest of safety.

113 Section 3. Subsection (6) of section 316.215, Florida
114 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), a new subsection (6)
115 is added to that section, and present subsection (6) is
116 republished, to read:

117 316.215 Scope and effect of regulations.—

118 (6) The provisions of any motor vehicle equipment laws or
119 regulations of this state which relate to or support motor
120 vehicle operation by a human driver but are not relevant for an
121 automated driving system shall not apply to fully autonomous
122 vehicles that are designed to be operated exclusively by the
123 automated driving system for all trips.

124 ~~(7)-(6)~~ A violation of this section is a noncriminal
125 traffic infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation as

126 | provided in chapter 318.

127 | Section 4. Subsection (5) is added to section 316.2126,
128 | Florida Statutes, to read:

129 | 316.2126 Authorized use of golf carts, low-speed vehicles,
130 | and utility vehicles.—

131 | (5) This section does not apply to the use of low-speed
132 | autonomous delivery vehicles.

133 | Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
134 | 316.306, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

135 | 316.306 School and work zones; prohibition on the use of a
136 | wireless communications device in a handheld manner.—

137 | (3) (a) 1. A person may not operate a motor vehicle while
138 | using a wireless communications device in a handheld manner in a
139 | designated school crossing, school zone, or work zone area as
140 | defined in s. 316.003(106) ~~s. 316.003(105)~~. This subparagraph
141 | shall only be applicable to work zone areas if construction
142 | personnel are present or are operating equipment on the road or
143 | immediately adjacent to the work zone area. For the purposes of
144 | this paragraph, a motor vehicle that is stationary is not being
145 | operated and is not subject to the prohibition in this
146 | paragraph.

147 | 2.a. During the period from October 1, 2019, through
148 | December 31, 2019, a law enforcement officer may stop motor
149 | vehicles to issue verbal or written warnings to persons who are
150 | in violation of subparagraph 1. for the purposes of informing

151 and educating such persons of this section. This sub-
 152 subparagraph shall stand repealed on October 1, 2020.

153 b. Effective January 1, 2020, a law enforcement officer
 154 may stop motor vehicles and issue citations to persons who are
 155 driving while using a wireless communications device in a
 156 handheld manner in violation of subparagraph 1.

157 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 655.960, Florida
 158 Statutes, is amended to read:

159 655.960 Definitions; ss. 655.960-655.965.—As used in this
 160 section and ss. 655.961-655.965, unless the context otherwise
 161 requires:

162 (1) "Access area" means any paved walkway or sidewalk
 163 which is within 50 feet of any automated teller machine. The
 164 term does not include any street or highway open to the use of
 165 the public, as defined in s. 316.003(85)(a) or (b) ~~s.~~
 166 ~~316.003(84)(a) or (b)~~, including any adjacent sidewalk, as
 167 defined in s. 316.003.

168 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.