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**HOUSE BILL 1984**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Kloba, Doglio, Taylor, Reed, Mena, Macri, Burnett, Stonier, Goodman, Berry, Parshley, and Ramel

Read first time 02/17/25. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle and operator requirements for  
2 autonomous vehicles; amending RCW 46.92.010; and adding a new section  
3 to chapter 46.92 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.92  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) An autonomous vehicle registered in this state must meet  
8 federal standards and regulations for a motor vehicle.

9 (2) A person may not operate an autonomous vehicle on a highway  
10 to transport passengers or goods unless a human safety operator is  
11 physically present in the autonomous vehicle to monitor the  
12 performance of the autonomous vehicle and to intervene if necessary,  
13 including operating, stopping, or shutting off the vehicle.

14 (3) Any human safety operator physically present in an autonomous  
15 vehicle must meet all state and federal requirements to operate a  
16 motor vehicle and an autonomous vehicle.

17 (4) For purposes of this section:

18 (a) "Autonomous vehicle" means a motor vehicle equipped with an  
19 automated driving feature that:

20 (i) Operates at level three, four, or five of driving automation  
21 under SAE international standard J3016, as it existed on the

1 effective date of this section, or such subsequent date as may be  
2 provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of  
3 this section; or

4 (ii) Is capable of both controlling steering on a sustained basis  
5 and purposefully departing from the current lane of travel.

6 (b) "Human safety operator" means a person who supervises the  
7 operation of an autonomous vehicle and intervenes as necessary to  
8 ensure safe operation.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.92.010 and 2021 c 193 s 1 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) In order to test an autonomous motor vehicle on any public  
12 roadway under the department's autonomous vehicle self-certification  
13 testing pilot program, the following information must be provided by  
14 the self-certifying entity testing the autonomous motor vehicle:

15 (a) Contact information specified by the department;

16 (b) Local jurisdictions where testing is planned;

17 (c) The vehicle identification numbers of the autonomous vehicles  
18 being tested, provided that one is required by state or federal law;  
19 and

20 (d) Proof of an insurance policy that meets the requirements of  
21 RCW 46.30.050.

22 (2) Any autonomous motor vehicle to which subsection (1) of this  
23 section is applicable and that does not have a vehicle identification  
24 number and is not otherwise required under state or federal law to  
25 have a vehicle identification number assigned to it must be assigned  
26 a unique identification number that is provided to the department and  
27 that is displayed in the vehicle in a manner similar to the display  
28 of vehicle identification numbers in motor vehicles.

29 (3)(a) The self-certifying entity testing the autonomous motor  
30 vehicle on any public roadway must notify the department of:

31 (i) Any collisions that are required to be reported to law  
32 enforcement under RCW 46.52.030, involving an autonomous motor  
33 vehicle during testing on any public roadway; and

34 (ii) Any moving violations, as defined in administrative rule as  
35 authorized under RCW 46.20.2891, for which a citation or infraction  
36 was issued, involving an autonomous motor vehicle during testing on  
37 any public roadway.

1 (b) By February 1st of each year, the self-certifying entity must  
2 submit a report to the department covering reportable events from the  
3 prior calendar year.

4 (c) The self-certifying entity shall provide the information  
5 required by the department under (a) of this subsection. The  
6 information provided must include whether the autonomous driving  
7 system was operating the vehicle at the time of or immediately prior  
8 to the collision or moving violation, and in the case of a collision,  
9 details regarding the collision, including any loss of life, injury,  
10 or property damage that resulted from the collision.

11 (d) The provisions of this section are supplemental to all other  
12 rights and duties under law applicable in the event of a motor  
13 vehicle collision.

14 (4) The self-certifying entity testing the autonomous motor  
15 vehicle on public roadways under the department's autonomous vehicle  
16 self-certification testing pilot program must provide written notice  
17 in advance of testing to local and state law enforcement agencies  
18 with jurisdiction over any of the public roadways on which testing  
19 will occur that includes the expected period of time during which  
20 testing will occur in the applicable jurisdictions, including city  
21 police departments within city limits where testing will occur,  
22 county sheriff departments outside of city limits in counties where  
23 testing will occur, and the Washington state patrol when testing will  
24 occur on limited access highways, as defined in RCW 47.52.010.  
25 However, for testing primarily on limited access highways that  
26 travels through multiple local jurisdictions, which may include the  
27 limited incidental use of other roadways, the self-certifying entity  
28 must only provide written notice as specified in this subsection to  
29 the Washington state patrol. Written notice provided under this  
30 subsection must: (a) Be provided not less than (~~fourteen~~) 14 and  
31 not more than (~~sixty~~) 60 days in advance of testing; (b) include  
32 contact information where the law enforcement agency can communicate  
33 with the self-certifying entity testing the autonomous vehicle  
34 regarding the testing planned in that jurisdiction; and (c) provide  
35 the physical description of the motor vehicle or vehicles being  
36 tested, including make, model, color, and license plate number.

37 (5) The department may adopt a fee to be charged by the  
38 department for self-certification in an amount sufficient to offset  
39 administration by the department of the self-certification testing  
40 pilot program.

1 (6) The department shall provide public access to the information  
2 self-certifying entities provide to it, and shall provide an annual  
3 report to the house and senate transportation committees of the  
4 legislature summarizing the information reported by self-certifying  
5 entities under this section.

6 (7) An autonomous motor vehicle may not be operated on any public  
7 roadway for the purposes of testing in Washington state unless the  
8 requirements under section 1 of this act are met and until the  
9 department is provided with the information required under subsection  
10 (1) of this section.

11 (8) For purposes of this section, (~~"autonomous" means a level~~  
12 ~~four~~) an "autonomous vehicle" means a motor vehicle equipped with an  
13 automated driving feature that:

14 (a) Operates at level three, four, or five driving automation  
15 (~~system as provided in the society of automotive engineering~~  
16 international's)) under SAE international standard J3016, as it  
17 existed on (~~October 1, 2022~~) the effective date of this section, or  
18 such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule,  
19 consistent with the purposes of this section; or

20 (b) Is capable of both controlling steering on a sustained basis  
21 and purposefully departing from the current lane of travel.

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