
HOUSE BILL 2971

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, Shea, Morris, Kloba, and Muri

Read first time 01/31/18. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the development of a report by the governor's
2 autonomous vehicle work group concerning the testing of autonomous
3 commercial motor vehicles on public roadways in the state; creating a
4 new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The governor's autonomous vehicle work
7 group, established under state of Washington executive order 17-02,
8 shall prepare a report to the legislature evaluating the merits of a
9 pilot project to test the use of autonomous commercial motor vehicles
10 on public roadways in the state and making recommendations for the
11 design of such a pilot.

12 (2) The report must include evaluation of the following:

13 (a) The potential for the use of autonomous commercial motor
14 vehicles to address current and future freight transportation
15 challenges faced by the state;

16 (b) Any unique safety challenges related to the use of autonomous
17 technology in commercial motor vehicles and how these may best be
18 addressed in the pilot, including any challenges posed by
19 cybersecurity threats;

20 (c) Any potential conflicts of such a pilot with relevant state
21 laws including, but not limited to, the uniform commercial driver's

1 license act, chapter 46.25 RCW; vehicle inspection, chapter 46.32
2 RCW; rules of the road, chapter 46.61 RCW; and enforcement, chapter
3 46.64 RCW; and how these may best be addressed in the pilot;

4 (d) Any potential conflicts of such a pilot with federal law
5 including, but not limited to, those that could result from the
6 testing of autonomous commercial motor vehicles as part of interstate
7 commerce or with the assistance of drivers with commercial driver's
8 licenses; and

9 (e) The level of interest of private sector entities to
10 participate in such a pilot.

11 (3) The report must include recommendations for the following:

12 (a) Whether the testing of autonomous commercial motor vehicles
13 should be undertaken separately from the general autonomous vehicle
14 pilot program established in executive order 17-02, due to the unique
15 requirements of such a pilot;

16 (b) The division of state agency responsibilities for the testing
17 of autonomous commercial motor vehicles and how these should best be
18 coordinated;

19 (c) Any requirements that should be met for autonomous commercial
20 motor vehicles to be authorized to participate in testing, including
21 requirements for vehicle owners, vehicle drivers or operators, and
22 vehicle liability financial responsibility requirements;

23 (d) The duration and timing for the testing of autonomous
24 commercial motor vehicles; and

25 (e) The level of monitoring of the testing of autonomous
26 commercial motor vehicles and the criteria by which the testing of
27 these vehicles should be assessed during and following the testing
28 period.

29 (4)(a) In conducting its evaluation and developing its
30 recommendations, the work group shall consult with the following
31 government entities:

32 (i) All work group member agencies included under executive order
33 17-02;

34 (ii) The freight mobility strategic investment board;

35 (iii) The utilities and transportation commission; and

36 (iv) The office of the insurance commissioner.

37 (b) The work group may consult with other relevant stakeholder
38 groups as it deems appropriate.

39 (5) By January 2, 2019, the work group shall submit the report
40 required under this section to all relevant committees of the

1 legislature, including the transportation committees; the house
2 public safety committee; the senate law and justice committee; the
3 house technology and economic development committee; and the senate
4 economic development and international trade committee.

5 (6) As used in this section, "autonomous commercial motor
6 vehicle" means any vehicle that meets the following criteria:

7 (a) The definition for "commercial motor vehicle" provided in RCW
8 46.25.010; and

9 (b) The definition of level 3, 4, or 5 of SAE international
10 standard J3016, as published on September 30, 2016, which is equipped
11 with technology that has the capability of operating or driving the
12 vehicle without the active physical control or monitoring of a human
13 operator, whether or not the technology is engaged, excluding
14 vehicles equipped with one or more systems that enhance safety or
15 provide driver assistance but are not capable of driving or operating
16 the vehicle without the active physical control or monitoring of a
17 human operator.

18 (7) This section expires July 1, 2019.

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