
HOUSE BILL 2970

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, Morris, Kloba, and Muri

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

1 AN ACT Relating to the establishment of an autonomous vehicle
2 work group; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The transportation commission must convene
5 a work group to develop policy recommendations to address the
6 operation of autonomous vehicles on public roadways in the state.

7 (1)(a) Membership of the work group must include, but is not
8 limited to: The director of the department of licensing or his or her
9 designee or designees, the secretary of the department of
10 transportation or his or her designee or designees, the chief of the
11 Washington state patrol or his or her designee or designees, and the
12 director of the traffic safety commission or his or her designee or
13 designees.

14 (b) Membership of the work group may also include: The insurance
15 commissioner or his or her designee or designees, the assistant
16 secretary of the department of social and health services aging and
17 long-term support administration or his or her designee or designees,
18 and the deputy director of the department of enterprise services who
19 oversees fleet operations or his or her designee or designees.

20 (c) The transportation commission may invite additional
21 participation on an ongoing, recurring, or one-time basis from

1 individuals representing additional state agencies, local and
2 regional governments, local law enforcement agencies, transit
3 authorities, state colleges and universities, autonomous vehicle
4 technology developers, motor vehicle manufacturers, and other
5 relevant stakeholders as appropriate.

6 (2)(a) To prepare for the use of autonomous vehicle technology in
7 the state, the work group must:

8 (i) Follow developments in autonomous vehicle technology,
9 autonomous vehicle deployment, and federal and state policies that
10 relate to the operation of autonomous vehicles, including the federal
11 government's recommendations related to vehicle performance guidance
12 for autonomous vehicles, model state policy, and current and possible
13 federal regulatory tools for the regulation of autonomous vehicles;
14 and

15 (ii) Explore approaches to the modification of state policy,
16 rules, and laws to further public safety and prepare all state
17 agencies for the emergence and deployment of autonomous vehicle
18 technology. Areas for consideration may include, but are not limited
19 to, manufacturer vehicle testing, vehicle registration and titling
20 requirements, driver's license requirements, rules of the road,
21 criminal law, roadway infrastructure, traffic management, transit,
22 vehicle insurance, tort liability, cybersecurity, privacy,
23 advertising, impacts to social services, and impacts to labor and
24 small businesses.

25 (b) In exploring possible modifications to state policy, rules,
26 and laws as required in (a)(ii) of this subsection, the work group
27 must consider the transportation system policy goals established in
28 RCW 47.04.280(1), which include the promotion of economic vitality,
29 the preservation of transportation systems and services, provision
30 for and improvement of the safety of transportation customers and the
31 transportation system, the improved mobility of goods and people, the
32 promotion of energy conservation, the enhancement of healthy
33 communities, the protection of the environment, and stewardship
34 through continuous improvement of the transportation system.

35 (3)(a) The transportation commission must develop and update
36 recommendations annually based on the input provided by the work
37 group that are consistent with the policy goals established in RCW
38 47.04.280(1). By December 18th of each year, the transportation
39 commission must provide a report to the governor and the relevant

1 committees of the legislature that describes the progress made by the
2 work group and the transportation commission's recommendations.

3 (b) The recommendations made by the transportation commission may
4 include proposed modifications to state law and rules to address the
5 emergence and deployment of autonomous vehicle technology in the
6 state.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Sections 1 and 3 of the act expire
8 December 31, 2023.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The legislature finds that autonomous
10 vehicle technology is rapidly evolving and that the testing and
11 deployment of this technology is advancing at a rapid pace.
12 Washington state's policies, laws, and rules predate autonomous
13 vehicle technology and largely have not been developed in
14 consideration of the operation of this technology on roadways in the
15 state. At both the federal and state level, efforts are underway to
16 begin to establish a framework of policy guidance, laws, and rules
17 that will organize and govern the use of autonomous vehicle
18 technology in the United States. The legislature finds that
19 establishing an autonomous vehicle work group, to be convened by the
20 transportation commission, will facilitate state efforts to address
21 the emergence of autonomous vehicle technology. It is the intent of
22 the legislature for the transportation commission to develop
23 recommendations for policy, laws, and rules for the operation of
24 autonomous vehicles, with input from the autonomous vehicle work
25 group, that enable Washington state to address the public policy
26 changes necessitated by the emergence of this technology in an
27 informed, thorough, and deliberate manner. This effort is required
28 because robot cars are coming, but robot policy makers are not.

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