
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AUTONOMOUS MOTOR VEHICLES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that autonomous motor
2 vehicles will be the transportation of choice in the future, and
3 that this technology offers a viable solution to alleviate the
4 twin issues of traffic congestion and traffic safety. It is
5 high time that the modern and obvious alternative offered by
6 autonomous or "driverless" motor vehicles should be officially
7 recognized and cleared for research and testing under the
8 auspices of Hawaii's department of transportation. Failure to
9 do so could result in our state being overwhelmed and unable to
10 cope with an influx of these vehicles once they are available to
11 consumers on the mass market.

12 The legislature further finds that the federal government
13 and a number of other states have already committed to further
14 exploring this promising technology. In January 2016, the
15 United States Department of Transportation announced a new
16 policy that updates the National Highway Traffic Safety
17 Administration's 2013 preliminary policy statement on autonomous
18 vehicles, in order to facilitate and encourage the development



1 and use of safety technologies that support these vehicles. At
2 the state level, California, Florida, Michigan, Nevada, North
3 Dakota, and Tennessee have enacted state legislation to pave the
4 way for autonomous vehicles.

5 The legislature further finds that in just the past few
6 years, a number of automobile manufacturers and technology
7 companies have made significant progress in the development and
8 testing of autonomous motor vehicles. While Google is the best-
9 known of the companies pursuing autonomous vehicles, having
10 logged over one million miles in its specialized driverless cars
11 without a steering wheel, conventional automobile makers such as
12 Tesla, Volvo, and Mercedes are each exploring self-steering
13 options in conventional vehicles, and have conducted autonomous
14 vehicle testing worldwide. In addition to vehicle
15 manufacturers, parts manufacturers are also preparing to support
16 this emerging technology. The looming importance of autonomous
17 vehicles is evidenced by the fact that members of the World
18 Economic Forum's automotive committee met in January 2016 to
19 discuss potential government regulation of autonomous vehicles
20 as one of the most pressing issues facing the automotive
21 industry.



1 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
2 transportation to establish an autonomous vehicle research and
3 testing program, to facilitate the research and development of
4 autonomous vehicles and prepare state and county government for
5 their eventual use on our roadways.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
8 to read as follows:

9 **"PART . AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES**

10 **§286-A Authorization.** The director shall authorize, no
11 later than January 1, 2017, the development of an autonomous
12 vehicle research and testing program, to be administered by the
13 department of transportation.

14 **§286-B Application and approval process.** The department
15 shall establish, no later than January 1, 2018, an application
16 and approval process by which autonomous vehicle manufacturers
17 and other interested parties may seek to test conduct research
18 and testing of autonomous vehicles in the State. Prior to
19 granting any approval for research or testing, the department
20 shall require, at a minimum, satisfactory evidence of the
21 following:

22 (a) The applicant's safety record;



1 (b) The applicant's insured or bonded status;

2 (c) The autonomous vehicle's safety features, including
3 the presence of a manual override feature; and

4 (d) The ease with which the autonomous vehicle's operator
5 can activate and deactivate the autonomous technology.

6 **§286-C Fees.** The department may assess any fees necessary
7 to cover the costs of application processing and program
8 administration.

9 **§286-D Rules.** The department shall adopt rules under
10 chapter 91 to implement this part.

11 **§286-E Penalties.** The department shall establish
12 administrative penalties for noncompliance with the requirements
13 of this part or with rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91.

14 **§286-F Reports to the legislature.** (a) No later than
15 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, and
16 beginning with the regular session of 2017, the director shall
17 submit a report to the legislature that addresses the following:

18 (1) The feasibility and safety implications of authorizing
19 the operation of autonomous vehicles beyond the
20 research and testing phase;

21 (2) The adoption or amendment of relevant administrative
22 rules issued pursuant to this part;



1 (3) Any additional legislative action that may be required
2 for the safe research, testing, and operation of
3 autonomous vehicles; and

4 (4) Detailed information on the autonomous vehicle
5 manufacturers and other interested parties who
6 submitted applications pursuant to section 286-B
7 during the preceding twelve-month period."

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
11 establishment of the autonomous vehicle testing program and any
12 associated costs.

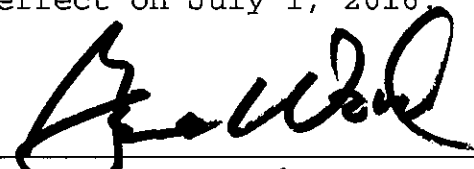
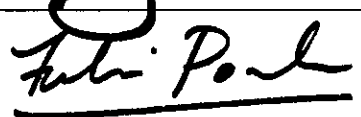
13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
14 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section
16 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
17 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
18 the new sections in this Act.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:



H.B. NO. 2687

Report Title:

Autonomous Motor Vehicles; Research and Testing.

Description:

Authorizes for research and testing purposes the operation of autonomous vehicles in the State. Requires department of transportation to establish an application and approval process and report annually to the legislature. Makes an appropriation.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

