



IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

BILL SUMMARY

HF 535

Automated Vehicles

Status of Bill: House Calendar
Committee: Transportation (21-0)
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Lead Democrat: Rep. Forbes
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Summary

HF 535 defines and regulates automated driving systems (ADS) in Iowa.

Definitions

An automated driving system is defined as the hardware and software collectively capable of performing all dynamic driving tasks on a sustained basis, regardless of whether the system is limited to a specific operation design domain, if any.

Operational design domain is the set of constraints that the system uses to properly operate different speed ranges and environmental conditions like weather or time of day.

A dynamic driving task means any real-time operational and tactical function required to operate a motor vehicle on a highway in traffic while being able to properly operate with speed ranges, weather, time of day or other constraints. .

A driverless capable vehicle is a ADS system equipped vehicle capable of performing all dynamic driving task within the operation design domain, including being able to operate to a safe state if there is a performance failure of the system, including but not limited to bringing the vehicle to a stop and activating hazard lamps.

Operation of Driverless Vehicles

Under HF 535, a driverless –capable vehicle may operate on highways in Iowa without a human driver if the vehicle meets the following criteria:

- The vehicle is capable of achieving a minimal risk condition if a malfunction of the automated driving system occurs that renders the system unable to perform the systems intended dynamic driving tasks .
- The vehicle can maintain compliance with Iowa’s traffic and motor vehicle safety laws and regulations unless the Department of Transportation has granted an exception.

- The vehicles manufacturer has certified the vehicle to be in compliance with all applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards, except to the extent an exemption has been granted under federal law or by the national highway traffic safety administration.

For the operation of system-equipped vehicle capable of ADS while a human driver is present in the vehicle the driver must possess a valid driver's license and must regain manual control of the vehicle when prompted by the automated driving system. When the ADS is engaged, the system must be designed to be in compliance with Iowa's traffic laws and regulations that govern dynamic driving tasks. For vehicles with ADS systems, the driver is not required to operate the system unless notified by the system to regain manual operation.

Insurance

Before a ADS capable system can operate in the state, the owner must submit to the Department of Transportation proof of financial liability coverage. The vehicle can not operate without liability coverage and must have proof of coverage in the vehicle. If the vehicle operates without coverage the owner can be charged with operating a vehicle without liability coverage.

Accidents

When a ADS system equipped vehicle is in an accident it must remain at the scene of the accident and the owner of the vehicle or a person on behalf of the owner must promptly contact emergency services. If the vehicle fails to remain at the scene the vehicles owner can be charged under code sections related to vehicle accidents.

On-demand Driverless Capable Network

HF 535 authorizes a transportation service network that would use software to dispatch driverless capable vehicle for the purpose of transporting persons or goods, including transportation for hire and public transportation.

Other Provisions

Under HF 535, the operation and use of ADS equipped vehicles will be governed exclusively by the provisions of the regulated by the Department of Transportation. The legislation prohibits local governments from imposing requirements that exceed the requirements laid out in the legislation. The legislation also prohibits local governments from taxing ADS equipped vehicles.

