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West

S.B. No. 2205

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to automated motor vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 545, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. OPERATION OF AUTOMATED MOTOR VEHICLES

Sec. 545.451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Automated driving system" means hardware and software that, when installed on a motor vehicle and engaged, are collectively capable of performing, without any intervention or supervision by a human operator:

(A) all aspects of the entire dynamic driving task for the vehicle on a sustained basis; and

(B) any fallback maneuvers necessary to respond to a failure of the system.

(2) "Automated motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle on which an automated driving system is installed.

(3) "Entire dynamic driving task" means the operational and tactical aspects of operating a vehicle. The term:

(A) includes:

(i) operational aspects, including steering, braking, accelerating, and monitoring the vehicle and the roadway; and

(ii) tactical aspects, including

1 responding to events, determining when to change lanes, turning,
2 using signals, and other related actions; and

3 (B) does not include strategic aspects,
4 including determining destinations or waypoints.

5 (4) "Human operator" means a natural person in an
6 automated motor vehicle who controls the entire dynamic driving
7 task.

8 (5) "Owner" has the meaning assigned by Section
9 502.001.

10 Sec. 545.452. SUBCHAPTER AND DEPARTMENT GOVERN
11 EXCLUSIVELY. (a) Unless otherwise provided by this subchapter,
12 the following are governed exclusively by this subchapter:

13 (1) automated motor vehicles, including any
14 commercial use or operation of automated motor vehicles; and

15 (2) automated driving systems.

16 (b) A political subdivision of this state or a state agency
17 may not impose a franchise or other regulation related to the
18 operation of an automated motor vehicle or automated driving
19 system.

20 Sec. 545.453. OPERATOR OF AUTOMATED MOTOR VEHICLE.

21 (a) When an automated driving system installed on a motor vehicle
22 is engaged:

23 (1) the owner of the automated driving system is
24 considered the operator of the automated motor vehicle solely for
25 the purpose of assessing compliance with applicable traffic or
26 motor vehicle laws, regardless of whether the person is physically
27 present in the vehicle while the vehicle is operating; and

1 (2) the automated driving system is considered to be
2 licensed to operate the vehicle.

3 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, a licensed human
4 operator is not required to operate a motor vehicle if an automated
5 driving system installed on the vehicle is engaged.

6 Sec. 545.454. AUTOMATED MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATION. (a) An
7 automated motor vehicle may operate in this state with the
8 automated driving system engaged, regardless of whether a human
9 operator is physically present in the vehicle.

10 (b) An automated motor vehicle may not operate on a highway
11 in this state with the automated driving system engaged unless the
12 vehicle is:

13 (1) capable of operating in compliance with applicable
14 traffic and motor vehicle laws of this state, subject to this
15 subchapter;

16 (2) equipped with a recording device, as defined by
17 Section 547.615(a), installed by the manufacturer of the automated
18 motor vehicle or automated driving system;

19 (3) equipped with an automated driving system in
20 compliance with applicable federal law and federal motor vehicle
21 safety standards;

22 (4) registered and titled in accordance with the laws
23 of this state; and

24 (5) covered by motor vehicle liability coverage or
25 self-insurance in an amount equal to the amount of coverage that is
26 required under the laws of this state.

27 Sec. 545.455. DUTIES FOLLOWING ACCIDENT INVOLVING

1 AUTOMATED MOTOR VEHICLE. In the event of an accident involving an
2 automated motor vehicle, the automated motor vehicle or any human
3 operator of the automated motor vehicle shall comply with Chapter
4 550.

5 Sec. 545.456. VEHICLE CLASSIFICATION. An owner as defined
6 by Section 502.001(31) may identify the vehicle to the department
7 as an automated motor vehicle or an automated driving system.

8 SECTION 2. (a) In this section, "a request to intervene"
9 means notification by a vehicle to the human operator that the
10 operator should promptly begin or resume performance of the entire
11 dynamic driving task.

12 (b) For purposes of Subchapter J, Chapter 545,
13 Transportation Code, as added by this Act, a motor vehicle equipped
14 with hardware and software capable of engaging in the entire
15 dynamic driving task with the expectation that a human operator
16 will respond appropriately to a request to intervene is subject to
17 Sections 545.452(b) and 545.454, Transportation Code, as added by
18 this Act.

19 (c) Nothing in Subchapter J, Chapter 545, Transportation
20 Code, as added by this Act, shall be construed to affect, alter, or
21 amend the right to operate a motor vehicle equipped with hardware
22 and software capable of performing the entire dynamic driving task
23 with the expectation that a human operator will respond
24 appropriately to a request to intervene.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.