By:  Canales (Senate Sponsor - Alvarado) H.B. No. 3026

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2021; May 10, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation; May 19, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 19, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                 Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Nichols           X

Seliger           X

Alvarado          X

Blanco            X

Hancock           X

Hinojosa          X

Kolkhorst         X

Perry             X

West              X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation and regulation of certain automated motor vehicles.

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

SECTION 1.  The heading to Section 545.452, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 545.452.  EXCLUSIVE REGULATION OF AUTOMATED MOTOR VEHICLES AND AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEMS [~~SUBCHAPTER AND DEPARTMENT GOVERN EXCLUSIVELY~~].

SECTION 2.  Section 545.452(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  Unless otherwise provided by this subchapter, automated motor vehicles, including any commercial use or operation of automated motor vehicles, and automated driving systems [~~the following~~] are governed exclusively by:

(1)  this subchapter; and

(2)  Section 547.618 [~~:~~

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

[~~(2)  automated driving systems~~].

SECTION 3.  Subchapter K, Chapter 547, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 547.618 to read as follows:

Sec. 547.618.  EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN AUTOMATED MOTOR VEHICLES. (a) In this section, "automated motor vehicle" and "automated driving system" have the meanings assigned by Section 545.451.

(b)  An automated motor vehicle that is designed to be operated exclusively by the automated driving system for all trips is not subject to motor vehicle equipment laws or regulations of this state that:

(1)  relate to or support motor vehicle operation by a human driver; and

(2)  are not relevant for an automated driving system.

(c)  If a vehicle safety inspection is required under this code for the operation of a vehicle described by Subsection (b), the vehicle shall automatically be considered to pass the inspection with respect to any equipment:

(1)  the requirements from which the vehicle is exempt under Subsection (b); or

(2)  the inspection of which is not required under Section 548.051.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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