

Senate Bill 54

By: Senator McKoon of the 29th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and
2 traffic, so as to create a new class of motor vehicles to be known as autonomous vehicles; to
3 provide for definitions; to provide for requirements to operate an autonomous vehicle; to
4 provide for the operation of autonomous vehicles on public highways for testing purposes;
5 to provide for indemnity to vehicle manufacturers in certain instances; to provide for the
6 regulation of autonomous vehicles; to provide for a penalty; to provide for related matters;
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, is
11 amended in Code Section 40-1-1, relating to definitions regarding motor vehicles and traffic,
12 by adding two new paragraphs to read as follows:

13 "(5.1) 'Autonomous technology' means technology installed on a motor vehicle that
14 provides the motor vehicle with the capability to drive without the direct active control
15 or monitoring by a human operator. The term excludes a motor vehicle equipped with
16 active safety systems or driver assistance systems, including, without limitation, a system
17 to provide electronic blind spot assistance, crash avoidance, emergency braking, parking
18 assistance, adaptive cruise control, lane keep assistance, lane departure warning, or traffic
19 jam and queuing assistant, unless any such system alone or in combination with other
20 systems enables the vehicle on which the technology is installed to drive without the
21 direct active control or monitoring by a human operator.

22 (5.2) 'Autonomous vehicle' means any motor vehicle installed with autonomous
23 technology."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 Said title is further amended in Article 13 of Chapter 6, relating to special provisions for
26 certain vehicles, by adding a new part to read as follows:

27 "Part 728 40-6-369.5.

29 An autonomous vehicle shall:

30 (1) Meet federal standards and regulations for a motor vehicle;

31 (2) Have a means to engage and disengage the autonomous technology which is easily
32 accessible to the operator;

33 (3) Have a means, inside the vehicle, to visually indicate when the vehicle is operating
34 in autonomous mode;

35 (4) Have a means to alert the operator of the vehicle if a technology failure affecting the
36 ability of the vehicle to safely operate autonomously is detected while the vehicle is
37 operating autonomously in order to indicate to the operator to take control of the vehicle;

38 and

39 (5) Be capable of being operated in compliance with the uniform rules of the road of this
40 state.

41 40-6-369.6.

42 Autonomous vehicles in compliance with Code Section 40-6-369.5 may be operated on
43 roads in this state by employees, contractors, or other persons designated by manufacturers
44 of autonomous technology for purposes of testing the technology. For testing purposes,
45 a human operator with a valid driver's license shall be present in the autonomous vehicle
46 to monitor the vehicle's performance and intervene, if necessary, unless the vehicle is being
47 tested or demonstrated on a closed course. Prior to testing in this state, the person
48 performing the testing shall submit to the Department of Revenue a surety bond or
49 documentation of liability insurance coverage of at least \$5 million.

50 40-6-369.7.

51 The original manufacturer of a vehicle converted by a third party to an autonomous vehicle
52 shall not be liable in, and shall have a defense to and be dismissed from, any legal action
53 brought against the original manufacturer by any person injured due to an alleged vehicle
54 defect caused by the conversion of the vehicle, unless the manufacturer participated in or
55 facilitated the adaption of the vehicle to autonomous technology or unless the alleged
56 defect was present in the vehicle as originally manufactured.

57 40-6-369.8.

58 The commissioner of driver services is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to
59 carry this part into effect and to establish regulations for safety standards for the operation
60 of autonomous vehicles. Any person who violates the provisions of this part, or any rules
61 and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, is subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00."

62 **SECTION 3.**

63 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.