

STATE OF NEW YORK

6052

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 16, 2019

Introduced by Sen. KENNEDY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT authorizing the commissioner of transportation to conduct a comprehensive study on designation of private roads on the University at Buffalo North Campus for the purposes of autonomous vehicle technology testing

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature recognizes that the
2 safety and mobility of all citizens is of utmost concern to the State.
3 That autonomous vehicle technology possesses the capability of increas-
4 ing pedestrian and passenger safety, reduce traffic and congestion and
5 improve the movement of goods and services across the state. That the
6 majority of motor vehicle accidents are due to human error and auton-
7 omous vehicle technology may possess the ability to eliminate some of
8 these motor vehicle accidents. That autonomous vehicle technology is
9 unproven and requires greater testing and the State of New York is a
10 testbed for innovation that balances the safety and needs of its public
11 against the need for technological advancement.

12 The legislature also recognizes that the University at Buffalo has the
13 legal authority to test autonomous vehicle technology on certain roads
14 that have been determined to be private and therefore not under the
15 jurisdiction of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles for
16 autonomous vehicle technology testing approval. In addition to testing
17 on these private roads, University at Buffalo may also test autonomous
18 vehicle technology in its parking lots, which are defined separately in
19 the law, and also are outside of New York State Department of Motor
20 Vehicles jurisdiction.

21 In order to increase the routes available on the University at Buffalo
22 North Campus for autonomous vehicle technology testing the New York
23 State Department of Transportation has the knowledge and expertise to

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 review traffic flow on the roadways within the University at Buffalo
2 North Campus to identify roads that could be deemed private without
3 impacting existing traffic conditions in and around the University at
4 Buffalo North Campus.

5 § 2. For the purposes of this act, the term "autonomous vehicle tech-
6 nology" shall mean the hardware and software that are collectively capa-
7 ble of performing part or all of the dynamic driving task on a sustained
8 basis, and the term "dynamic driving task" shall mean all of the real-
9 time operational and tactical functions required to operate a vehicle in
10 on-road traffic, excluding the strategic functions such as trip schedul-
11 ing and selection of destinations and waypoints.

12 § 3. The department of transportation shall undertake a comprehensive
13 study on designation of private roads on the University at Buffalo North
14 Campus for the purposes of autonomous vehicle technology testing. The
15 scope of this study shall include:

16 1. Review of existing traffic patterns in and around the University at
17 Buffalo North Campus;

18 2. Determination of the mobility needs of the University at Buffalo
19 students, faculty and staff;

20 3. Recommendations for which roads within the University at Buffalo
21 North Campus would provide the greatest benefit to autonomous vehicle
22 technology testing and cause the least effect on existing traffic
23 patterns in and around the University at Buffalo North Campus; and

24 4. Methodology to transfer recommended roads to private roads.

25 § 4. The department of transportation shall make a report to the
26 governor and the legislature of its findings, conclusions and recommen-
27 dations no later than one year after the effective date of this act and
28 shall submit with this report such legislative proposals as it deems
29 necessary to implement its recommendations.

30 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.