

STATE OF NEW YORK

3909

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 1, 2021

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

AN ACT establishing the New York task force on automated vehicle technology; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. The Legislature finds that automated
2 vehicle technology offers widely anticipated and revolutionary potential
3 for the transportation sector. Among the unprecedented opportunities
4 offered by this technology are inclusive mobility options to benefit
5 disadvantaged, disabled and elderly residents; congestion and emissions
6 mitigation; improved livable land use, and better road usage. Further,
7 the legislature has amended section 2 of part FF of chapter 55 of the
8 laws of 2017, relating to motor vehicles equipped with autonomous vehi-
9 cle technology, as amended by section 2 of part H of chapter 58 of the
10 laws of 2018, as amended by section 1 of part M of chapter 58 of the
11 laws of 2019, to allow for a two-year testing program for automobile
12 manufacturers and technology leaders to test and demonstrate automated
13 vehicle technology in New York, which will expire and be deemed repealed
14 April 1, 2021. Consequently, the legislature finds that there is a
15 pressing need for policymakers to study automated vehicle technology and
16 formulate comprehensive laws and regulations to ensure the state is
17 prepared for the safe deployment of automobiles equipped with this tech-
18 nology and to help prepare the state for a future where automated vehi-
19 cle technology plays a role in shaping our roadways, economy, education
20 system, and society.

21 To this end, it is in the public interest to establish an automated
22 vehicle task force to study, evaluate and develop recommendations relat-
23 ing to specific actionable measures that address how automated vehicle

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

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1 technology will transform the state's roadways, economy, education
2 system, and society.

3 § 2. Automated vehicle task force. The New York task force on auto-
4 mated vehicle technology is hereby established to study and assess the
5 future of automated vehicle technology. For purposes of this act, "auto-
6 mated vehicle" shall mean a motor vehicle that has the capability to
7 drive the vehicle without the active control or monitoring of a human
8 operator including any automation level at or above SAE J3016 level 3.
9 Such task force shall consist of seventeen members with demonstrated
10 expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force. The members
11 of the task force shall be appointed as follows:

12 (a) five members shall be appointed by the governor, such members'
13 expertise shall encompass, but not be limited to, the areas of transpor-
14 tation, research and development, education, education for or assisting
15 people with disabilities; one of these members shall be the commissioner
16 of the department of motor vehicles and shall serve as chairperson of
17 the task force; and one member shall be the commissioner of the depart-
18 ment of transportation and shall serve as vice chair;

19 (b) two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the
20 senate;

21 (c) two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

22 (d) one member shall be appointed by the senate minority leader;

23 (e) one member shall be appointed by the assembly minority leader;

24 (f) one member shall be appointed by the chancellor of the state
25 university of New York; such member shall be a member of a research
26 faculty of an engineering department at a state university of New York
27 campus;

28 (g) one member shall be appointed by the commission on independent
29 colleges and universities from a New York private university research
30 faculty of an engineering department;

31 (h) two members shall be appointed by the alliance of automobile
32 manufacturers and shall be representatives of two differing original
33 equipment manufacturers;

34 (i) one member shall be appointed by the president of AFL-CIO; and

35 (j) one member shall be appointed by the New York state business coun-
36 cil.

37 § 3. All appointments shall be made no later than the thirtieth day
38 after the effective date of this section. Vacancies in the membership of
39 the task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for by the
40 original appointments. The task force shall organize as soon as practi-
41 cable following the appointment of its members. The chairperson shall
42 appoint a secretary who shall not be a member of the task force. The
43 members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their
44 services.

45 § 4. The task force shall study, evaluate and develop recommendations
46 relating to specific actionable measures that address how automated
47 vehicle technology will transform the state's roadways, economy, educa-
48 tion system and society. The automated vehicle task force shall study
49 how to support the safe testing, deployment and operation of automated
50 vehicle technology on public highways. It shall take all of the follow-
51 ing into consideration: (a) the measures necessary to successfully
52 implement automated vehicles, including necessary legislative and regu-
53 latory or administrative changes; (b) the difficulties and liabilities
54 that could arise by allowing automated vehicles on public highways and
55 proper mechanisms to manage risks and ensure adequate risk coverage; (c)
56 how automated vehicle technology can promote research and development in

1 this state; (d) potential considerations and resource needs for law
2 enforcement; (e) potential infrastructure changes needed and capital
3 planning considerations; and (f) any other issue the committee deems
4 relevant.

5 § 5. The task force shall be entitled to request and receive, and
6 shall utilize such facilities, resources and data of any court, depart-
7 ment, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the state or any
8 political subdivision thereof as it may reasonably request to properly
9 carry out its powers and duties.

10 § 6. In carrying out its functions, the task force shall hold five
11 public hearings around the state to foster discussions in accordance
12 with article seven of the public officers law, and formal public hear-
13 ings to solicit input and recommendations from statewide and regional
14 stakeholder interests.

15 § 7. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
16 the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of
17 the assembly on or before April first, two thousand twenty-three.

18 § 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
19 deemed repealed 2 years after such date.