STATE OF NEW YORK

S. 6993 A. 7744

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

SENATE - ASSEMBLY

May 21, 2021

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

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. McMAHON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend part FF of chapter 55 of the laws of 2017 relating to motor vehicles equipped with autonomous vehicle technology, in relation to demonstrations and tests conducted by the University at Buffalo

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

Section 1. Subdivision a of section 1 of part FF of chapter 55 of the laws of 2017, relating to motor vehicles equipped with autonomous vehicle technology, as amended by section 1 of part H of chapter 58 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

a. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1226 of the vehicle and traffic law, the New York state commissioner of motor vehicles may approve demonstrations and tests consisting of the operation of a motor vehicle equipped with autonomous vehicle technology while such motor vehicle is engaged in the use of such technology on public highways within this state for the purposes of demonstrating and assessing the current development of autonomous vehicle technology and to begin identifying potential impacts of such technology on safety, traffic control, traffic enforcement, emergency services, and such other areas as may be identified by such commissioner. Provided, however, that such demonstrations and tests **not conducted by the University at Buffalo** shall only take place under the direct supervision of the New York state police, in a form and manner prescribed by the superintendent of the New York state police. Additionally, a law enforcement interaction plan shall be included as part of the demonstration and test application that

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

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includes information for law enforcement and first responders regarding how to interact with such a vehicle in emergency and traffic enforcement situations. Such demonstrations and tests shall take place in a manner and form prescribed by the commissioner of motor vehicles including, but not limited to: a requirement that a natural person holding a valid license for the operation of the motor vehicle's class be present within such vehicle for the duration of the time it is operated on public highways; a requirement that the motor vehicle utilized in such demonstrations and tests complies with all applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards and New York state motor vehicle inspection standards; and a requirement that the motor vehicle utilized in such demonstrations and tests has in place, at a minimum, financial security in the amount of five million dollars**. Provided further that demonstrations and tests conducted by the University at Buffalo shall only take place under the supervision of the Erie county sheriff, University at Buffalo campus police, and/or town of Amherst police, with supervision, future testing zones authorized and minimum financial security levels subject to the consent of the department of transportation and town of Amherst**. Nothing in this act shall authorize the motor vehicle utilized in such demonstrations and tests to operate in violation of article 22 or title 7 of the vehicle and traffic law, excluding section 1226 of such law.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately, provided, however, that the amendments to subdivision a of section 1 of part FF of chapter 55 of the laws of 2017 made by section one of this act shall not affect the repeal of such subdivision and shall be deemed to repeal therewith.