STATE OF NEW YORK

7956

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 15, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HARCKHAM, COONEY, MAYER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to requiring human safety operators for certain autonomous vehicles

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

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 393-b to read as follows:

§ 393-b. Human safety operator required for certain autonomous vehicles. No motor vehicle with a manufacturers' gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand one pounds or more which utilizes autonomous vehicle technology shall be operated on public highways unless a natural person holding a valid license for the operation of the motor vehicle's class is present within such vehicle. As used in this section, "autonomous vehicle technology" shall mean the hardware and software that are collectively capable of performing part or all of the dynamic driving task on a sustained basis, and the term "dynamic driving task" shall mean all of the real-time operational and tactical functions required to operate a vehicle in on-road traffic, excluding the strategic functions such as trip scheduling and selection of destinations and waypoints.

§ 2. This act shall take effect upon the adoption by the state of a law permitting the operation of motor vehicles utilizing autonomous vehicle technology on public highways without requiring a natural person holding a valid license for the operation of the motor vehicle's class to be present within such vehicle; provided that the commissioner of motor vehicles shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission upon the occurrence of the enactment of such state law in order that the commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effecting the provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the public officers law.

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

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