

# SENATE, No. 734

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Beck and Kyrillos**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs MVC to establish driver's license endorsement for autonomous vehicles.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/28/2014)**

1 AN ACT concerning autonomous vehicles, and supplementing  
2 chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey

6

7 1. For the purposes of this act:

8 “Artificial intelligence” means the use of computers and related  
9 equipment to enable a machine to duplicate or mimic the behavior  
10 of human beings.

11 “Autonomous mode” means the operation of the autonomous  
12 vehicle without the active control of a human being.

13 “Autonomous vehicle” means a motor vehicle that uses artificial  
14 intelligence, sensors, global positioning system coordinates, or any  
15 other technology to carry out the mechanical operations of driving  
16 without the active control and continuous monitoring of a human  
17 operator.

18 “Sensors” include, without limitation, cameras, lasers, and radar.

19

20 2. a. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall  
21 establish a driver’s license endorsement for the operation of  
22 autonomous vehicles on the highways, roads, and streets of this  
23 State. A person shall not operate an autonomous vehicle in  
24 autonomous mode unless that person has obtained an endorsement  
25 on that person’s driver’s license to operate an autonomous vehicle.

26 b. An endorsement to a driver’s license allowing a person to  
27 operate an autonomous vehicle shall not require that a person  
28 actively drive the autonomous vehicle.

29

30 3. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
31 Commission shall adopt regulations, pursuant to the provisions of  
32 the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1  
33 et seq.), authorizing the operation of autonomous vehicles on  
34 highways, roads, and streets in this State. The regulations shall  
35 include, but not be limited to:

36 a. Requirements an autonomous vehicle must meet before it  
37 may be operated on any highway, road, or street within this State;

38 b. Requirements for proof of insurance as required by  
39 P.L.1972, c.197 (C.39:6B-1) to test or operate an autonomous  
40 vehicle on any highway, road, or street within this State, in  
41 consultation with the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance,  
42 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1972, c.200 (C.39:3-29.1);

43 c. Requirements for the registration of the autonomous vehicle,  
44 pursuant to R.S.39:3-4;

45 d. Minimum safety standards for autonomous vehicles and their  
46 operation;

47 e. Requirements for testing autonomous vehicles;

1 f. Restrictions for testing autonomous vehicles in specified  
2 geographic areas; and

3 g. Any other requirements the chief administrator determines to  
4 be necessary.

5  
6 4. No provision in this act, or in any manual, test, or  
7 administrative procedure developed to implement the provisions of  
8 this act, shall be deemed to expand the requirements set forth in  
9 federal law or regulation. This section shall not be deemed to limit  
10 the authority of the chief administrator, or the authority of any State  
11 department or agency, to promulgate, pursuant to other provisions  
12 of State law, standards and procedures on vehicle inspections that  
13 are consistent with federal law and regulation.

14  
15 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

16

17

18 STATEMENT

19

20 This bill directs the Motor Vehicle Commission to establish a  
21 driver's license endorsement for the operation of autonomous  
22 vehicles on the highways, roads, and streets of this State.  
23 "Autonomous vehicle" means a motor vehicle that uses artificial  
24 intelligence, sensors, global positioning system coordinates, or any  
25 other technology that enables it to drive itself without the active  
26 control and continuous monitoring of a human operator.

27 The Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission shall  
28 also establish regulations authorizing the operation of autonomous  
29 vehicles that shall include, but are not limited to: requirements the  
30 autonomous vehicle must meet before it may be operated on  
31 highways, roads, or streets; requirements for proof of insurance to  
32 test or operate an autonomous vehicle on highways, roads, or streets  
33 in consultation with the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance;  
34 requirements for registration; minimum safety standards for  
35 autonomous vehicles and their operation; requirements for testing  
36 autonomous vehicles; restrictions for testing autonomous vehicles  
37 in specified geographic areas; and any other requirements the chief  
38 administrator determines to be necessary. Nothing in this act shall  
39 expand on federal law or limit the authority of the chief  
40 administrator, or authority of other State department or agency, to  
41 promulgate standards and procedures on vehicle inspections that are  
42 consistent with federal law or regulation.