Model Federal Law

Overview

1. Endorses the safety-conscious development and deployment of automated driving systems.
2. Supports the conclusion that automated driving is consistent with international legal obligations.
3. Provides greater flexibility to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in setting standards.
4. Automatically dedicating dedicated automated vehicles (i.e., truly driverless vehicles) from any existing part of any Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) that concerns only conventional human driving.
5. Authorizes NHTSA to grant other FMVSS exemptions for an unlimited number of vehicles if the overall safety level of those vehicles is at least equal to that of those other vehicles.

Model State Law

Overview

1. Expressly authorizes automated driving.
2. Establishes an interstate database for automated driving systems.
3. Requires the automated driving provider to make certain traffic-relevant representations.
4. Requires the automated driving provider to maintain additional insurance that covers vehicle-related injuries or damages.
5. Requires the automated driving provider to maintain a bond or deposit that covers the owner of an automated vehicle if that vehicle is deemed unsafe.

Language

Background

1. It is the intent of Congress to facilitate the warrants to the public that the automated operation of such vehicle is reasonably safe; Registration of an automated vehicle may be granted, maintained, and renewed only if, by any provision of this Title requiring a minimum following distance other than a reasonable Requires the automated driving provider to maintain a reasonable (rather than Conditions vehicle registration on the automated driving provider's satisfaction of these requirements.
2. Provided that a user of an automated vehicle is and is not a legal driver/operator.
3. Authorizes NHTSA to grant other FMVSS exemptions for an unlimited number of vehicles if the overall safety level of those vehicles is at least equal to that of those other vehicles.

Rule of the road

The rules of the road shall be interpreted to facilitate the development and deployment of automated driving systems in a way that improves highway safety.

Role of the automated driving provider

An automated driving provider shall take reasonable steps to ensure reasonable compliance with any provision, including any requirement, of this Act and shall be liable as a driver or operator in case of noncompliance.

Vehicle registration

A motor vehicle shall not be operated on a public highway if it is unreasonably dangerous, improperly equipped, insufficiently insured, noncompliant with any vehicle registration requirements, or otherwise for such operation.

Automated vehicle

Unless otherwise provided by this Act or by the laws of this State, a natural or legal person as the exclusive driver and operator of a vehicle under automated operation.

Remote driver

A remote driver who is employed, contracted, or compensated as such shall hold a driving license that is valid in this State.

Occupancy

In this Act, "occupancy" shall be exempt from any provision, including any requirement, of this Act.

Automated operation

The automated operation of an automated vehicle in accordance with this Act and in a manner that improves highway safety.

Automated vehicle owner

An automated vehicle owner shall register an automated vehicle in this State if such vehicle

Automated vehicle operator

An automated vehicle operator is a natural person who

Occupancy of automated vehicles

The provisions of this Act are severable, and a declaration that any part thereof is unconstitutional or otherwise invalid shall not affect the part that remains.