

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 511—COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

MARCH 28, 2011

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Revises certain provisions governing transportation.
(BDR 43-1109)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to transportation; providing certain privileges to the owner or long-term lessee of a qualified plug-in electric drive vehicle; authorizing in this State the operation of, and the alternative licensure of operators of, autonomous vehicles; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law authorizes the Department of Transportation to adopt regulations
2 to allow certified low emission and energy-efficient vehicles to be operated in a
3 lane on a highway under its jurisdiction designated for the preferential use or
4 exclusive use of high-occupancy vehicles. (NRS 484A.463) **Section 1** of this bill
5 defines the term “qualified plug-in electric drive vehicle” in a manner substantially
6 similar to the definition used by the Internal Revenue Service for the purpose of the
7 tax credit made available for the initial acquisition of such vehicles and provides
8 that the owner or long-term lessee of such a vehicle may: (1) apply to the
9 Department of Motor Vehicles for a distinctive decal, label or other identifier that
10 distinguishes the vehicle from other vehicles; and (2) while displaying the
11 distinctive identifier, park the vehicle without the payment of a parking fee in
12 public parking lots, parking areas and metered parking zones, and use the vehicle in
13 high-occupancy vehicle lanes irrespective of the occupancy of the vehicle, if the
14 Department of Transportation has adopted the necessary regulations.

15 **Section 5** of this bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to adopt
16 regulations authorizing the operation of autonomous vehicles on highways within
17 the State of Nevada. **Section 5** defines an “autonomous vehicle” to mean a motor
18 vehicle that uses artificial intelligence, sensors and global positioning system
19 coordinates to drive itself without the active intervention of a human operator.
20 **Section 2** of this bill requires the Department, by regulation, to establish an
21 alternative class of driver’s license for the operation of an autonomous vehicle on
22 the highways of this State.



* A B 5 1 1 *

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 482 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 1. *Upon the application of the owner or long-term lessee of a*
4 *qualified plug-in electric drive vehicle, the Department shall issue*
5 *to the owner or long-term lessee a distinctive decal, label or other*
6 *identifier that clearly distinguishes the qualified plug-in electric*
7 *drive vehicle from other vehicles.*

8 2. *The Department may charge a fee for the distinctive decal,*
9 *label or other identifier issued pursuant to subsection 1 in an*
10 *amount that is sufficient to cover the costs of issuing the*
11 *distinctive decal, label or other identifier.*

12 3. *The driver of a qualified plug-in electric drive vehicle*
13 *displaying the distinctive decal, label or other identifier issued*
14 *pursuant to subsection 1 may:*

15 (a) *Operate the qualified plug-in electric drive vehicle in a lane*
16 *designated for the use of high-occupancy vehicles pursuant to*
17 *NRS 484A.460, regardless of the number of occupants in the*
18 *vehicle, if the Department of Transportation adopts regulations*
19 *allowing such vehicles to be operated in such lanes in accordance*
20 *with NRS 484A.463;*

21 (b) *Stop, stand or park the qualified plug-in electric drive*
22 *vehicle in any metered parking zone without depositing a coin of*
23 *United States currency of the designated denomination in the*
24 *applicable parking meter; and*

25 (c) *Stop, stand or park the qualified plug-in electric drive*
26 *vehicle in any public parking lot or parking area without paying a*
27 *parking fee.*

28 4. *As used in this section, "qualified plug-in electric drive*
29 *vehicle" means a motor vehicle that:*

30 (a) *Is equipped with four wheels;*

31 (b) *Is made by a manufacturer;*

32 (c) *Is manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads*
33 *and highways;*

34 (d) *Has a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of less*
35 *than 8,500 pounds;*

36 (e) *Can maintain a maximum rate of speed of at least 70 miles*
37 *per hour; and*

38 (f) *Is propelled to a significant extent by an electric motor*
39 *which draws electricity from a battery that:*

40 (1) *Has a capacity of not less than 4 kilowatt hours; and*



* A B 5 1 1 *

1 (2) *Can be recharged from a source of electricity that is*
2 *external to the vehicle.*

3 **Sec. 2.** Chapter 483 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
4 thereto a new section to read as follows:

5 1. *The Department shall by regulation establish an*
6 *alternative class of driver's license for the operation of an*
7 *autonomous vehicle on the highways of this State. The alternative*
8 *class of driver's license described in this subsection must, in its*
9 *restrictions or lack thereof, recognize the fact that a person is not*
10 *required to actively drive an autonomous vehicle.*

11 2. *As used in this section, "autonomous vehicle" has the*
12 *meaning ascribed to it in section 5 of this act.*

13 **Sec. 3.** NRS 483.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 483.230 1. Except persons expressly exempted in NRS
15 483.010 to 483.630, inclusive, *and section 2 of this act*, a person
16 shall not drive any motor vehicle upon a highway in this State
17 unless such person has a valid license as a driver under the
18 provisions of NRS 483.010 to 483.630, inclusive, *and section 2 of*
19 *this act* for the type or class of vehicle being driven.

20 2. Any person licensed as a driver under the provisions of NRS
21 483.010 to 483.630, inclusive, *and section 2 of this act* may
22 exercise the privilege thereby granted upon all streets and highways
23 of this State and shall not be required to obtain any other license to
24 exercise such privilege by any county, municipal or local board or
25 body having authority to adopt local police regulations.

26 3. Except persons expressly exempted in NRS 483.010 to
27 483.630, inclusive, *and section 2 of this act*, a person shall not steer
28 or exercise any degree of physical control of a vehicle being towed
29 by a motor vehicle upon a highway unless such person has a license
30 to drive the type or class of vehicle being towed.

31 4. A person shall not receive a driver's license until the person
32 surrenders to the Department all valid licenses in his or her
33 possession issued to the person by this or any other jurisdiction.
34 Surrendered licenses issued by another jurisdiction shall be returned
35 by the Department to such jurisdiction. A person shall not have
36 more than one valid driver's license.

37 **Sec. 4.** NRS 483.620 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38 483.620 It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of
39 the provisions of NRS 483.010 to 483.630, inclusive, *and section 2*
40 *of this act* unless such violation is, by NRS 483.010 to 483.630,
41 inclusive, *and section 2 of this act* or other law of this State,
42 declared to be a felony.



1 **Sec. 5.** Chapter 484A of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 1. *The Department shall adopt regulations authorizing the*
4 *operation of autonomous vehicles on highways within the State of*
5 *Nevada.*

6 2. *The regulations required to be adopted by subsection 1*
7 *must:*

8 (a) *Set forth requirements that an autonomous vehicle must*
9 *meet before it may be operated on a highway within this State;*

10 (b) *Set forth requirements for the insurance that is required to*
11 *test or operate an autonomous vehicle on a highway within this*
12 *State;*

13 (c) *Establish minimum safety standards for autonomous*
14 *vehicles and their operation;*

15 (d) *Provide for the testing of autonomous vehicles;*

16 (e) *Restrict the testing of autonomous vehicles to specified*
17 *geographic areas; and*

18 (f) *Set forth such other requirements as the Department*
19 *determines to be necessary.*

20 3. *As used in this section:*

21 (a) *“Artificial intelligence” means the use of computers and*
22 *related equipment to enable a machine to duplicate or mimic the*
23 *behavior of human beings.*

24 (b) *“Autonomous vehicle” means a motor vehicle that uses*
25 *artificial intelligence, sensors and global positioning system*
26 *coordinates to drive itself without the active intervention of a*
27 *human operator.*

28 (c) *“Sensors” includes, without limitation, cameras, lasers and*
29 *radar.*

30 **Sec. 6.** NRS 484A.463 is hereby amended to read as follows:

31 484A.463 1. To the extent not inconsistent with federal law,
32 the Department of Transportation may, in consultation with the
33 Federal Highway Administration and the United States
34 Environmental Protection Agency, adopt regulations establishing a
35 program to allow a vehicle that is certified by the Administrator of
36 the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a low
37 emission and energy-efficient vehicle to be operated in a lane that is
38 designated for the use of high-occupancy vehicles pursuant to
39 NRS 484A.460.

40 2. As used in this section, “low emission and energy-efficient
41 vehicle” has the meaning ascribed to it in 23 U.S.C. § 166(f)(3). *The*
42 *term includes, without limitation, a qualified plug-in electric drive*
43 *vehicle, as that term is defined in section 1 of this act.*



1 **Sec. 7.** NRS 484B.523 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 484B.523 1. ~~[When]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section*
3 *1 of this act, when* parking meters are erected by any local authority
4 pursuant to an adopted ordinance giving notice thereof, it is
5 unlawful for any person to stop, stand or park a vehicle in any
6 metered parking zone for a period of time longer than designated by
7 such parking meters upon a deposit of a coin of United States
8 currency of the designated denomination.
9 2. Every vehicle shall be parked wholly within the metered
10 parking space for which the meter shows parking privilege has been
11 granted.
12 3. It is unlawful for any unauthorized person to remove, deface,
13 tamper with, open, willfully break, destroy or damage any parking
14 meter, or willfully to manipulate any parking meter in such a
15 manner that the indicator will fail to show the correct amount of
16 unexpired time before a violation occurs.
17 **Sec. 8.** The Department of Motor Vehicles shall adopt the
18 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act on or
19 before January 1, 2012.
20 **Sec. 9.** This act becomes effective on January 1, 2012.

