

SENATE BILL NO. 313—SENATOR DENIS

MARCH 18, 2013

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to autonomous vehicles. (BDR 43-954)

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

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

AN ACT relating to autonomous vehicles; requiring an autonomous vehicle that is being tested on a highway within this State to meet certain conditions relating to a human operator; prohibiting an autonomous vehicle from being registered in this State, or tested or operated on a highway within this State, unless it meets certain conditions relating to safety; providing that the manufacturer of a motor vehicle that has been converted to be an autonomous vehicle by a third party is immune from liability for certain injuries in certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to adopt regulations
2 authorizing the operation of autonomous vehicles on highways within the State of
3 Nevada. (NRS 482A.100) **Sections 2 and 7** of this bill exclude a vehicle that
4 contains certain systems for assisting the driver from being an autonomous vehicle
5 unless the combined effect of all such systems is to enable the vehicle to be driven
6 without the active control or monitoring of a human operator. **Section 3** of this bill
7 requires an autonomous vehicle that is being tested on a highway within this State
8 to have a human operator who is seated in the driver’s seat, monitoring the safe
9 operation of the vehicle and capable of taking over control of the vehicle in an
10 emergency. **Section 4** of this bill prohibits an autonomous vehicle from being
11 registered in this State unless it meets federal standards and regulations. **Section 4**
12 also prohibits an autonomous vehicle from being tested or operated on a highway
13 within this State unless it is equipped with certain equipment to ensure its safe
14 operation and can be operated in compliance with the motor vehicle and traffic laws
15 of this State. **Section 5** of this bill provides that the manufacturer of a motor vehicle
16 that has been converted to an autonomous vehicle by a third party is not liable for



17 an injury that results from that conversion unless the defect that caused the injury
18 was present in the vehicle as originally manufactured.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 482A of NRS is hereby amended by
2 adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive,
3 of this act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *“Autonomous technology” means technology which*
5 *is installed on a motor vehicle and which has the capability to*
6 *drive the motor vehicle without the active control or monitoring of*
7 *a human operator. The term does not include an active safety*
8 *system or a system for driver assistance, including, without*
9 *limitation, a system to provide electronic blind spot detection,*
10 *crash avoidance, emergency braking, parking assistance, adaptive*
11 *cruise control, lane keeping assistance, lane departure warning, or*
12 *traffic jam and queuing assistance, unless any such system, alone*
13 *or in combination with any other system, enables the vehicle on*
14 *which the system is installed to be driven without the active control*
15 *or monitoring of a human operator.*

16 **Sec. 3.** *If an autonomous vehicle is being tested on a*
17 *highway within this State, a human operator must be:*

18 1. *Seated in a position which allows the human operator to*
19 *take immediate manual control of the autonomous vehicle;*

20 2. *Monitoring the safe operation of the autonomous vehicle;*
21 *and*

22 3. *Capable of taking over immediate manual control of the*
23 *autonomous vehicle in the event of a failure of the autonomous*
24 *technology or other emergency.*

25 **Sec. 4.** 1. *An autonomous vehicle shall not be registered in*
26 *this State unless the autonomous vehicle meets all federal*
27 *standards and regulations that are applicable to a motor vehicle.*

28 2. *An autonomous vehicle shall not be tested or operated on a*
29 *highway within this State unless the autonomous vehicle is:*

30 (a) *Equipped with a means to engage and disengage the*
31 *autonomous technology which is easily accessible to the human*
32 *operator of the autonomous vehicle;*

33 (b) *Equipped with a visual indicator located inside the*
34 *autonomous vehicle which indicates when autonomous technology*
35 *is driving the autonomous vehicle;*

36 (c) *Equipped with a means to alert the human operator to take*
37 *manual control of the autonomous vehicle if a failure of the*
38 *autonomous technology has been detected and such failure affects*



1 *the ability of the autonomous technology to operate safely the*
2 *autonomous vehicle; and*

3 *(d) Capable of being operated in compliance with the*
4 *applicable motor vehicle laws and traffic laws of this State.*

5 **Sec. 5.** *The manufacturer of a motor vehicle that has been*
6 *converted by a third party into an autonomous vehicle is not liable*
7 *for damages to any person injured due to a defect caused by the*
8 *conversion of the motor vehicle or by any equipment installed to*
9 *facilitate the conversion unless the defect that caused the injury*
10 *was present in the vehicle as originally manufactured.*

11 **Sec. 6.** NRS 482A.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 482A.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
13 requires, the words and terms defined in NRS ~~482A.020 to~~
14 ~~482A.050, inclusive.~~ *482A.030 and 482A.040 and section 2 of this*
15 *act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

16 **Sec. 7.** NRS 482A.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 482A.030 “Autonomous vehicle” means a motor vehicle that
18 uses ~~artificial intelligence, sensors and global positioning system~~
19 ~~coordinates to drive itself without the active intervention of a human~~
20 ~~operator.~~ *autonomous technology.*

21 **Sec. 8.** NRS 482A.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 482A.200 The Department shall by regulation establish a
23 driver’s license endorsement for the operation of an autonomous
24 vehicle on the highways of this State. The driver’s license
25 endorsement described in this section must, in its restrictions or lack
26 thereof, recognize the fact that a person is not required to actively
27 drive an autonomous vehicle ~~H~~, *except in case of emergency.*

28 **Sec. 9.** NRS 482A.020 and 482A.050 are hereby repealed.

29 **Sec. 10.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

TEXT OF REPEALED SECTIONS

482A.020 “Artificial intelligence” defined. “Artificial intelligence” means the use of computers and related equipment to enable a machine to duplicate or mimic the behavior of human beings.

482A.050 “Sensors” defined. “Sensors” includes, without limitation, cameras, lasers and radar.

