

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 339  
2 INTRODUCED BY D. LOGE, D. FERN, R. FITZGERALD, N. DURAM  
3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS TO REGULATE ~~VEHICLES~~  
5 ~~WITH AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEMS PLATOONING~~; PROVIDING FOR PRESUMPTIONS OF LIABILITY;  
6 PROVIDING THAT DUI LAWS APPLY TO ~~OPERATING AN AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE PLATOONING~~;  
7 PROHIBITING USE OF FULLY AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES ON HIGHWAYS UNTIL RULEMAKING IS  
8 COMPLETE; PROHIBITING PLATOONING ON HIGHWAYS UNTIL RULEMAKING IS COMPLETE  
9 REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONSULT WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND  
10 ADOPT RULES REGULATING THE USE OF ~~FULLY AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND~~ PLATOONING;  
11 DEFINING TERMS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-8-1001, 61-8-1002,  
12 61-8-1016, AND 61-8-1018, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

13  
14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

15  
16 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 ~~through 7 and 2~~], the following  
17 definitions apply:

18 ~~(1) "Automated driving system" means, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the~~  
19 ~~hardware and software that are collectively capable of performing the entire dynamic driving task on a~~  
20 ~~sustained basis, regardless of whether the automated driving system is limited to a specific operational design~~  
21 ~~domain.~~

22 ~~(2) "Developer or manufacturer" means any entity in the chain of manufacture of a vehicle with an~~  
23 ~~automated driving system, including entities in the chain of manufacture of the automated driving system.~~

24 ~~(3)(2) (a) "Dynamic driving task" means all of the real-time operational and tactical functions required~~  
25 ~~to operate a motor vehicle in highway traffic, including:~~

26 ~~(i) lateral vehicle motion control through steering;~~

27 ~~(ii) longitudinal motion control through acceleration and deceleration;~~

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1           ~~(iii) — monitoring the driving environment through object and event detection, recognition,~~  
2 ~~classification, and response preparation;~~

3           ~~(iv) — object and event response execution;~~

4           ~~(v) — maneuver planning; and~~

5           ~~(vi) — enhancing the conspicuousness of the vehicle with lights, signals, and gestures.~~

6           ~~(b) — The term does not include strategic functions such as trip scheduling and selection of~~  
7 ~~destinations and waypoints.~~

8           ~~(4)(3) — "Fallback-ready user" means the user of a vehicle equipped with an engaged level 3 automated~~  
9 ~~driving system who is a human driver who is responsible to operate the vehicle if a system failure occurs or the~~  
10 ~~automated driving system issues a request to intervene.~~

11           ~~(5)(4) — "Human driver" means a natural person with a valid driver's license to operate a motor vehicle~~  
12 ~~of the proper class for the motor vehicle being operated and who performs in real time all or part of the dynamic~~  
13 ~~driving task.~~

14           ~~(6)(5) — "Level 1 automated driving system" means a system that provides to a driver one of the~~  
15 ~~following:~~

16           ~~(a) — braking and accelerating support; or~~

17           ~~(b) — steering support.~~

18           ~~(7)(6) — "Level 2 automated driving system" means a system that provides to a driver both of the~~  
19 ~~following:~~

20           ~~(a) — braking and accelerating support; and~~

21           ~~(b) — steering support.~~

22           ~~(8)(7) — "Level 3 automated driving system" means an automated driving system feature that:~~

23           ~~(a) — has the capability to perform on a sustained basis the entire dynamic driving task within its~~  
24 ~~operational design domain; and~~

25           ~~(b) — requires a fallback-ready user to operate the vehicle after receiving a request to intervene or in~~  
26 ~~response to a system failure.~~

27           ~~(9)(8) — "Level 4 automated driving system" means an automated driving system feature that, without~~

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1 ~~any expectation a human user will respond to a request to intervene, has the capability to perform:~~

2 ~~(a) — on a sustained basis the entire dynamic driving task within its operational design domain; and~~

3 ~~(b) — any maneuvers necessary to achieve a minimal risk condition in response to:~~

4 ~~(i) — an exit from the operational design domain of the automated driving system; or~~

5 ~~(ii) — a system failure.~~

6 ~~(10)(9) "Level 5 automated driving system" means an automated driving system feature that, without~~

7 ~~any expectation a human user will respond to a request to intervene, has the capability to perform:~~

8 ~~(a) — on a sustained basis the entire dynamic driving task under all conditions that can reasonably~~

9 ~~be managed by a human driver; and~~

10 ~~(b) — any maneuvers necessary to respond to a system failure.~~

11 ~~(11)(10) "Minimal risk condition" means a condition to which a user or an automated driving system~~

12 ~~brings a motor vehicle to reduce the risk of a crash when a trip cannot or should not be completed.~~

13 ~~(12)(11) "Object and event detection" and "object and event response" mean the subtasks of the~~

14 ~~dynamic driving tasks that include:~~

15 ~~(a) — monitoring the driving environment; and~~

16 ~~(b) — executing an appropriate response to perform the dynamic driving task.~~

17 ~~(13)(12) "Operate" means the activities performed in order to perform the entire dynamic driving task for~~

18 ~~a motor vehicle, including testing of an automated driving system, by:~~

19 ~~(a) — a human driver; or~~

20 ~~(b) — an engaged automated driving system.~~

21 ~~(14)(13) "Operational design domain" means the operating conditions under which an automated driving~~

22 ~~system or a feature of an automated driving system is specifically designed to function, including:~~

23 ~~(a) — speed range, environmental, geographical, and time-of-day restrictions; or~~

24 ~~(b) — the requisite presence or absence of certain traffic or roadway characteristics.~~

25 ~~(15)(14) "Operator" means:~~

26 ~~(a) — a human driver who operates a vehicle; or~~

27 ~~(b) — an automated driving system that operates a vehicle.~~

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1           ~~(16)(15)(1)~~ "Platooning" means operating partially or fully autonomous motor vehicles that are  
2 trailers, trucks, or truck tractors, as defined in 61-1-101, to travel on a highway at electronically coordinated  
3 speeds in a unified manner at a following distance that is closer than would be reasonable and prudent without  
4 the use of the technology.

5           ~~(17)(16)(2)~~ "Public highways of this state" has the meaning provided in 60-1-201.

6           ~~(18)(17)"Request to intervene" means the notification by an automated driving system to a fallback-~~  
7 ~~ready user indicating that the fallback-ready user should promptly begin or resume operation of the vehicle.~~

8           ~~(19)(18)"System failure" means a malfunction in a vehicle system that prevents the automated driving~~  
9 ~~system from reliably performing the portion of the dynamic driving task on a sustained basis, including the~~  
10 ~~complete dynamic driving task, that the automated driving system would otherwise perform.~~

11           ~~(20)(19)"User" means:~~

12           ~~(a) — a human driver;~~

13           ~~(b) — a passenger; or~~

14           ~~(c) — a fallback-ready user.~~

15  
16           ~~**NEW SECTION. Section 2. — Autonomous vehicles and liability.** (1) Except for providing rebuttable~~  
17 ~~presumptions of liability in [sections 3 through 5], nothing in [sections 1 through 7] may be construed to alter~~  
18 ~~generally applicable laws regarding liability, including but not limited to the provisions of Title 27.~~

19           ~~(2) — Nothing in [sections 1 through 7] may be construed to limit the ability of a person or entity in the~~  
20 ~~chain of manufacture or sale to seek indemnification or allocation of liability through contract.~~

21           ~~(3) — The rebuttable presumptions established in [sections 3 through 5] may be overcome on a~~  
22 ~~showing of:~~

23           ~~(a) — failure to properly maintain an automated driving system; or~~

24           ~~(b) — other admissible evidence.~~

25  
26           ~~**NEW SECTION. Section 3. — Presumption of liability -- level 1 and level 2 systems.** There is a~~  
27 ~~rebuttable presumption that the human driver of a vehicle equipped with a level 1 or level 2 automated driving~~

1 system is liable for damages to persons or property caused by the operation of the vehicle and for penalties  
2 associated with traffic regulations violated by the operation of the vehicle.

3  
4 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. — Presumption s of liability -- level 3 system.** (1) There is a rebuttable  
5 presumption that the developer or manufacturer of a vehicle using a level 3 automated driving system is liable  
6 for damages to persons or property caused by the operation of the vehicle and for penalties associated with  
7 traffic regulations violated by the operation of the vehicle:

8 (a) — prior to a request to intervene or a system failure; or

9 (b) — resulting immediately from a system failure.

10 (2) — There is a rebuttable presumption that the human driver or fallback ready user of a vehicle  
11 using a level 3 automated driving system is liable for physical harm caused by the vehicle after:

12 (a) — a request to intervene; or

13 (b) — failing to respond timely to a system failure.

14  
15 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. — Presumption of liability -- level 4 and level 5 systems.** There is a  
16 rebuttable presumption that the developer or manufacturer of a vehicle using a level 4 or level 5 automated  
17 driving system is liable for damages to persons or property caused by the operation of the vehicle and for  
18 penalties associated with traffic regulations violated by the operation of the vehicle.

19  
20 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. — Level 4 and level 5 automated driving systems prohibited except as**  
21 **regulated -- rulemaking authority.** (1) LEVEL 1, LEVEL 2, AND LEVEL 3 AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEMS MAY BE USED  
22 ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS OF THIS STATE.

23 (1)(2) Level 4 and level 5 automated driving systems may not be used on public highways of this state,  
24 except as provided BUT MUST BE REGULATED by department of transportation rulemaking.

25 (3) THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL ADOPT RULES REGULATING THE USE OF VEHICLES  
26 EQUIPPED WITH LEVEL 4 AND LEVEL 5 AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEMS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT INTERESTED  
27 STAKEHOLDERS PRIOR TO PROPOSING RULES, SUCH AS MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE, AND

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1 ~~REPRESENTATIVES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY, AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS, THE~~  
2 ~~INSURANCE INDUSTRY, RANCHERS, PEDESTRIANS, DRIVERS, AND TRIBAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THE DEPARTMENT~~  
3 ~~SHALL PROPOSE RULES NO LATER THAN JANUARY 30, 2024.~~

4 (2) ~~The department of transportation shall adopt rules regarding the use of level 4 and level 5~~  
5 ~~automated driving systems on public highways of this state. During the rulemaking process, the department~~  
6 ~~shall consider:~~

7 (a) ~~prohibiting the use of level 4 and level 5 automated driving systems on public highways of this~~  
8 ~~state during unsafe atmospheric or road conditions;~~

9 (b) ~~imposing conditions on the use of level 4 and level 5 automated driving systems on public~~  
10 ~~highways of this state with high pedestrian use;~~

11 (c) ~~requiring developers or manufacturers of level 4 and level 5 automated driving systems to~~  
12 ~~certify that atmospheric, demographic, geographic, pedestrian, road, vehicle, and zoological conditions~~  
13 ~~common in the state have been considered in the development of the system as a condition of use of the public~~  
14 ~~highways of this state;~~

15 (d) ~~conditions to impose on testing level 4 and level 5 automated driving systems on the public~~  
16 ~~highways of this state; and~~

17 (e) ~~conditions to impose generally on the use of level 4 and level 5 automated driving systems on~~  
18 ~~the public highways of this state.~~

19  
20 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Vehicle platooning ~~prohibited except allowed~~ as regulated --**

21 **rulemaking authority.** (1) Vehicle platooning on public highways of this state is ALLOWED, BUT MUST BE  
22 REGULATED BY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RULEMAKING.

23 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS PRIOR TO PROPOSING RULES, SUCH  
24 AS MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE, ~~AND~~ REPRESENTATIVES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE  
25 TRUCKING INDUSTRY, ~~AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS platooning technology developers,~~ THE INSURANCE  
26 INDUSTRY, RANCHERS, PEDESTRIANS, DRIVERS, AND TRIBAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
27 PROPOSE RULES NO LATER THAN JANUARY 30, 2024. ~~prohibited except under the circumstances allowed by~~

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1 ~~department of transportation rulemaking.~~

2           (2) ~~—The department of transportation shall adopt rules regarding vehicle platooning on public~~  
3 ~~highways of this state. During the rulemaking process, the department shall consider:~~

4           (a) ~~—prohibiting platooning on public highways of this state during unsafe atmospheric or road~~  
5 ~~conditions;~~

6           (b) ~~—conditions to impose on platooning on public highways of this state with high pedestrian use;~~

7           (c) ~~—requiring developers or manufacturers of platooning vehicles to certify that atmospheric,~~  
8 ~~demographic, geographic, pedestrian, road, vehicle, and zoological conditions common in the state have been~~  
9 ~~considered in the development of the platooning vehicles as a condition of use of the public highways of this~~  
10 ~~state ;~~

11           (d) ~~—conditions to impose on testing platooning vehicles on the public highways of this state; and~~

12           (e) ~~—conditions to impose generally on platooning vehicles on public highways of this state,~~  
13 ~~including limiting the number of vehicles that may platoon together.~~

14

15           **Section 3.** Section 61-8-1001, MCA, is amended to read:

16           **"61-8-1001. Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise and unless a  
17 different meaning plainly is required, the following definitions apply:

18           (1) "Aggravated driving under the influence" means a person is in violation of 61-8-1002(1)(a),  
19 (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d) and:

20           (a) the person's alcohol concentration, as shown by analysis of the person's blood, breath, or other  
21 bodily substance, is 0.16 or more;

22           (b) the person is under the order of a court or the department to equip any motor vehicle the  
23 person operates with an approved ignition interlock device;

24           (c) the person's driver's license or privilege to drive is suspended, cancelled, or revoked as a result  
25 of a prior violation of driving under the influence, including a violation of 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d),  
26 an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence, or a similar offense under  
27 previous laws of this state or the laws of another state; or

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1 (d) the person refuses to give a breath sample as required in 61-8-1016 and the person's driver's  
2 license or privilege to drive was suspended, cancelled, or revoked under the provisions of an implied consent  
3 statute.

4 (2) "Alcoholic beverage" means a compound produced for human consumption as a drink that  
5 contains 0.5% or more of alcohol by volume.

6 (3) "Alcohol concentration" means either grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood or grams of  
7 alcohol per 210 liters of breath, including as used in 16-6-305, 23-2-535, 45-5-207, 67-1-211, and this title.

8 (4) "Bus" means a motor vehicle with a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of 11 or more  
9 passengers, including the driver.

10 (5) "Camper" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101.

11 (6) "Commercial motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101.

12 (7) (a) "Conducting" means:

13 (i) ~~engaging or disengaging a platooning vehicle or an automated driving system, other than a~~  
14 ~~level 5 automated driving system; or~~

15 (ii) ~~performing or failing to perform any function that moves or stops a platooning vehicle or a~~  
16 ~~vehicle with an automated driving system, other than a level 5 automated driving system;~~

17 (b) ~~As used in this subsection (7), "automated driving system", "level 5 automated driving system",~~  
18 ~~and "platooning" have has the meanings provided in [section 1].~~

19 ~~(7)(8)~~ (8) "Drug" means any substance that when taken into the human body can impair a person's ability  
20 to operate a vehicle safely. The term includes the meanings provided in 50-32-101(6), (7), and (14).

21 ~~(8)(9)~~ (9) "DUI court" means any court that has established a special docket for handling cases involving  
22 persons convicted under 61-8-1007 or 61-8-1008 and that implements a program of incentives and sanctions  
23 intended to assist a participant to complete treatment ordered pursuant to 61-8-1009 and to end the  
24 participant's criminal behavior associated with the use of alcohol or drugs.

25 ~~(9)(10)~~ (10) "Highway" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101, including the shoulders of the highway.

26 ~~(10)(11)~~ (11) "Motor home" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101.

27 ~~(11)(12)~~ (12) "Motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101.

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1           ~~(12)~~(13) "Open alcoholic beverage container" means a bottle, can, jar, or other receptacle that  
2 contains any amount of an alcoholic beverage and that is open or has a broken seal or the contents of which  
3 are partially removed.

4           ~~(13)~~(14) "Passenger area" means the area designed to seat the driver and passengers while a motor  
5 vehicle is in operation and any area that is readily accessible to the driver or a passenger while the driver or a  
6 passenger is seated in the vehicle, including an unlocked glove compartment.

7           ~~(14)~~(15) "Under the influence" means that as a result of taking into the body alcohol, drugs, or any  
8 combination of alcohol and drugs, a person's ability to safely operate a vehicle has been diminished.

9           ~~(15)~~(16) "Vehicle" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101, except that the term does not include a  
10 bicycle."  
11

12           **Section 4.** Section 61-8-1002, MCA, is amended to read:

13           **"61-8-1002. Driving under influence.** (1) A person commits the offense of driving under the influence  
14 if the person drives, is conducting, or is in actual physical control of:

15           (a) a vehicle or a commercial motor vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public while  
16 under the influence of alcohol, any drug, or a combination of alcohol and any drug;

17           (b) a noncommercial vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public while the person's  
18 alcohol concentration, as shown by analysis of the person's blood, breath, or other bodily substance, is 0.08 or  
19 more;

20           (c) a commercial motor vehicle within this state while the person's alcohol concentration, as shown  
21 by analysis of the person's blood, breath, or other bodily substance, is 0.04 or more;

22           (d) a noncommercial vehicle or commercial motor vehicle within this state while the person's delta-  
23 9-tetrahydrocannabinol level, excluding inactive metabolites, as shown by analysis of the person's blood or  
24 other bodily substance, is 5 ng/ml or more; or

25           (e) a vehicle within this state when the person is under 21 years of age at the time of the offense  
26 while the person's alcohol concentration, as shown by analysis of the person's blood, breath, or other bodily  
27 substance, is 0.02 or more.

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1 1002(1)(a) based on the presence of a drug or drugs in the person unless some other competent evidence  
2 exists that tends to establish that the person was under the influence of a drug or drugs while driving,  
3 conducting, or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle within this state.

4 (b) a report of the facts and results of one or more tests of a person's blood or breath is admissible  
5 in evidence if:

6 (i) a breath test or preliminary alcohol screening test was performed by a person certified by the  
7 forensic sciences division of the department to administer the test; or

8 (ii) a blood sample was analyzed in a laboratory operated or certified by the department or in a  
9 laboratory exempt from certification under the rules of the department and the blood was withdrawn from the  
10 person by a person competent to do so under 61-8-1019(1); and

11 (c) a report of the facts and results of a physical, psychomotor, or physiological assessment of a  
12 person is admissible in evidence if it was made by a person trained by the department or by a person who has  
13 received training recognized by the department.

14 (2) If the person under arrest refused to submit to one or more tests under 61-8-1016, whether or  
15 not a sample was subsequently collected for any purpose, proof of refusal is admissible in any criminal action  
16 or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the person was driving, conducting, or  
17 in actual physical control of a vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public while under the influence of  
18 alcohol, drugs, or a combination of alcohol and drugs. The trier of fact may infer from the refusal that the person  
19 was under the influence. The inference is rebuttable.

20 (3) The provisions of this part do not limit the introduction of any other competent evidence bearing  
21 on the question of whether the person was under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of alcohol  
22 and drugs."  
23

24 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Codification instruction. [Sections ~~1 through 7-3 and 2~~] are intended to  
25 be codified as an integral part of Title 61, chapter 8, and the provisions of Title 61, chapter 8, apply to [sections  
26 ~~1 through 7-3 and 2~~].  
27

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1            NEW SECTION. **Section 8. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

2

3            NEW SECTION. **Section 9. Termination.** ~~[Sections 6 and 7 2 AND 3] terminate [Section 2] terminates~~

4 June 30, 2027.

5

- END -

AMENDED