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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 2, 2019



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### END OF SESSION — SF302 — AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

**Description.** [Senate File 302](#) establishes a framework for vehicles operated by automated driving systems under new Iowa Code section 321.514.

**Definitions.** [Senate File 302](#) defines several terms under new Iowa Code section 321.514. Among them are:

- **Automated Driving System** — The hardware and software collectively capable of performing the entire dynamic driving task on a sustained basis, regardless of whether the system is limited to a specific operational design domain, if any.
- **Minimal Risk Condition** — A reasonably safe state to which an automated driving system brings a system-equipped vehicle upon experiencing a performance-relevant failure of the system that renders the system unable to perform the entire dynamic driving task. This includes removing the vehicle to the nearest shoulder if possible, coming to a complete stop, and activating the vehicle's emergency signal lamps.

**Operation.** Driverless-capable vehicles are allowed on public highways of this State without a conventional human driver under certain conditions, among them:

- The vehicle can achieve minimal risk condition when the driving system malfunctions.
- The vehicle operates in compliance with applicable traffic laws unless exempted by the Iowa Department of Transportation.
- The vehicle is certified by the manufacturer under federal safety standards unless exempted.

**Insurance.** The owner of the system-equipped vehicle shall obtain financial liability coverage for the vehicle pursuant to Iowa Code section [321.20B](#).

**Accidents.** In the event of an accident, vehicles are to remain on the scene of the accident and comply with Iowa Code sections [321.261](#) through [321.273](#). The onus for failure to comply falls on the owner of the vehicle and is subject to penalties.

**On-Demand Driverless-Capable Vehicle Network.** Under the Bill, a person may operate an on-demand driverless-capable vehicle network as defined in the Bill.

**Authority.** The Bill grants the Department of Transportation the authority to regulate automated driving systems under new Iowa Code sections 321.514 through 321.518. Political subdivisions are not to impose a tax on system-equipped vehicles, automated driving systems, or on-demand driverless-capable vehicle networks if the tax relates specifically to the operation thereof.

**Penalties.** Under Iowa Code section [321.482](#), it is a simple misdemeanor for a person to do an act forbidden or to fail to perform an act required by Iowa Code chapter [321](#), unless a different penalty is otherwise specified by law. A simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than 30 days or a fine of at least \$65 but not more than \$625 or by both.

**Enactment Date.** The Bill was approved by the General Assembly on April 18, 2019, and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

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