AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for autonomous and connected vehicles.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

CHAPTER 36

AUTONOMOUS AND CONNECTED VEHICLES

Subchapter

A. Preliminary Provisions

B. Testing

SUBCHAPTER A

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Sec.

3601. Definitions.

§ 3601. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Autonomous technology." Equipment, devices or other technology installed on a motor vehicle, either by the original equipment manufacturer or an aftermarket installer, which renders the motor vehicle capable of driving or operating without the active control of a human operator. The term does not include an active safety system or any system for driver assistance, including, but not limited to, a system to provide electronic blind spot detection, crash avoidance, emergency braking, parking assistance, adaptive cruise control, lane keeping assistance, lane departure warning or traffic jam and queuing assistance, unless the system, alone or in combination with any other system, enables the vehicle to drive without the active control or monitoring of a human operator.

"Autonomous vehicle." A motor vehicle that is equipped with autonomous technology that can operate without the active physical control or monitoring of a human operator. The term includes vehicles that are engaged in platooning.

"Autonomous vehicle tester." A manufacturer, educational institution, automotive equipment or technology provider, fleet operator or other person that is certified by the Department of Transportation to conduct testing and that has been authorized by the department to conduct public testing of an autonomous vehicle.

"Operation." The operation of an autonomous vehicle on a test road for the purpose of testing.

"Operator." An individual employed by or affiliated with an autonomous vehicle tester who is able to take immediate manual or remote control of the autonomous vehicle.
"Platooning." Use of equipment, a device or technology that allows a motor vehicle or series of motor vehicles to operate in an autonomous mode while coupled or joined to a lead vehicle via a wireless connection in a caravan or motorcade.

"Test road." Any of the following:

(1) A trafficway.

(2) A turnpike.

"Turnpike." As defined in 74 Pa.C.S. § 8102 (relating to definitions).

SUBCHAPTER B
TESTING

Sec.
3610. Safety and control.
3611. Registration.
3612. Operation.
3613. Policy.
3614. Operator.
3615. Disciplinary action.
3616. Reporting.

§ 3610. Safety and control.

When an autonomous vehicle is being operated, the operator must:

(1) Be a licensed driver.

(2) Be able to take immediate manual or remote control of the autonomous vehicle in the event of a failure or malfunction of the autonomous technology or other emergency.

(3) Monitor the operation of the autonomous vehicle.

(4) Ensure that an autonomous vehicle will not be operated unless the autonomous vehicle is:

(i) Equipped with a means to engage and disengage
the autonomous technology which is easily accessible to
the operator.

(ii) Equipped with a means to alert the operator to
take manual control of the autonomous vehicle if the
autonomous technology has failed and the failure affects
the ability of the autonomous technology to safely
operate the autonomous vehicle.

(iii) Marked in a manner approved by the department
as being under remote control operation if the autonomous
vehicle is being controlled without a human operator in
the vehicle.

§ 3611. Registration.

An autonomous vehicle may not be registered in this
Commonwealth unless it meets Federal and State laws. If the
autonomous technology or autonomous vehicle does not meet
Federal and State laws for the purpose of testing, the
autonomous vehicle tester must obtain approval from the
department.

§ 3612. Operation.

(a) Contract.--The department may enter into a contract with
an autonomous vehicle tester for the purpose of operating an
autonomous vehicle. If operation will occur on the turnpike, the
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission must be made a party to the
contract.

(b) Prohibition.--An autonomous vehicle tester may not
conduct autonomous vehicle operation without a valid contract. A
person conducting autonomous vehicle operation, except as
provided under a contract entered into under subsection (a),
commits a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(c) Insurance or bond.--An autonomous vehicle tester must do
the following before operating an autonomous vehicle on a test
road:

(1) Submit to the department proof of general liability
insurance or self-insurance, acceptable to the department, in
the amount of $5,000,000.

(2) Provide proof of financial responsibility for the
vehicle as provided under Chapter 17 (relating to financial
responsibility).

§ 3613. Policy.

(a) Adoption.--The department may adopt a policy authorizing
the operation of autonomous vehicles as provided for under a
contract entered into under section 3612(a) (relating to
operation). The policy may:

(1) Establish requirements that an autonomous vehicle
tester must meet before operation of an autonomous vehicle.

(2) Establish requirements that an autonomous vehicle
must meet before operation, including minimum safety
standards for autonomous vehicles and their operation and the
minimum number of hours an autonomous vehicle must meet on a
test road with low average daily traffic as determined by the
department before the autonomous vehicle is introduced on a
test road with high average daily traffic as determined by
the department.

(3) Establish requirements for an operator.

(4) Restrict the operation of autonomous vehicles to
specified geographic areas, classes and types of testing
roads and time and weather conditions.

(5) Provide for other requirements as the department
determines to be necessary in consultation with the
chairperson and minority chairperson of the Transportation
Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of the Transportation Committee of the House of Representatives.

(b) Publication.--The department shall submit for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin any policy adopted under subsection (a) and place the policy on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

§ 3614. Operator.
The operator shall be deemed to be the driver or operator of an autonomous vehicle under this title.

§ 3615. Disciplinary action.
The department may suspend or cancel a contract to operate autonomous vehicles for any grounds determined by the department.

§ 3616. Reporting.
(a) Autonomous vehicle tester.--An autonomous vehicle tester must provide the following reports to the department:

(1) Notwithstanding any other obligation to report an accident under this title, an accident involving an autonomous vehicle that is being operated on a test road under the authority of this chapter. The report must:

(i) Be made within 10 days of the occurrence.

(ii) Be made on a form supplied by the department.

(iii) Include whether the accident resulted in towing of the autonomous vehicle or other involved vehicle or whether an injury resulted from the accident and the date, the name of the investigating law enforcement agency and law enforcement incident number.

(2) Any instance, on a biannual basis, where the operator was required to disengage the vehicle from

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autonomous mode as a result of a failure of the autonomous technology.

(3) The status of autonomous vehicle testing.

(b) Department.--Annually, the department, in coordination with the Pennsylvania State Police, shall submit a report to the chairperson and minority chairperson of the Transportation Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of the Transportation Committee of the House of Representatives that describes the status of autonomous vehicle testing, including, but not limited to, autonomous vehicle testers, number and type of accidents and recommendations to improve autonomous vehicle testing.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.