

Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6486

AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEM EQUIPPED

Title: VEHICLES.

Vote Date: 3/26/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/3/2021

File No.:

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REASONS FOR BILL:

To permit the testing and operation of automated driving system equipped vehicles on state highways in order for Connecticut to remain economically and technologically competitive with surrounding states, and to reap the benefits of innovative technology.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Jennifer Homendy, Board Member on the National Transportation Board](#)

Jennifer Homendy presented and submitted written testimony on behalf of the National Transportation Board, which recommends additional safeguards be included. In regards to the pilot program for autonomous vehicle developers to test their vehicles on state highways, the testimony recommends "that the state ensures any autonomous vehicle tester demonstrates it has a robust safety management program in place before beginning any testing." Next, the testimony offers an anecdote of an ADS-related crash in Arizona, which resulted in the death of a pedestrian—followed by "lessons learned from our investigation of the crash". The following recommendations are then offered: "(1) require developers to submit an application for testing ADS-equipped vehicles that, at a minimum, details a plan to manage the risk associated with crashes and operator inattentiveness and establish countermeasures to prevent crashes or mitigate crash severity within the ADS testing parameters, and (2) establish a task group of experts to evaluate the application before granting a testing permit." The testimony concludes by recommending states "[review] the company's safety self-assessment plan," followed by a detailed explanation as to how this review would operate, and urges that "these are the safeguards that should be included in HB 6486."

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Wayne Weikel; Senior Director of State Affairs, the Alliance for Automotive Innovation](#)

Wayne Weikel presented and submitted written testimony on behalf of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation. The testimony offers support, contingent upon proposed revisions which are included in their own "redlined" version of this bill (attached to testimony). The suggestions include clarifying language regarding "best practices", as said best practices are often "contradictory"; clarification on automaker's "self-certification", as automakers "do not 'receive' certification" under federal regulations; perspective on the \$5 million minimum being excessive when outside a testing program; and perspective on scenarios in which "strict compliance to traffic laws could create more traffic/safety issues than limited deviation."

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Ian Bond

Date: 4/1/2021