

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 3325  
**Version:** First engrossment

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**Subject:** Autonomous vehicles task force and demonstration project

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### Overview

This bill creates a task force on use of autonomous vehicles to provide transportation for people with disabilities, establishes a corresponding demonstration project, and appropriates \$5 million from the general fund for these activities.

#### Section

**1 Definition of autonomous vehicle.** Defines the term “autonomous vehicle” for the bill.

**2 Establishment of autonomous vehicles task force.** Creates a task force to examine autonomous vehicle policies and legislation, and oversee a demonstration project, for providing transportation services to people with disabilities.

**Subd. 1. Purpose.** Establishes the task force and purpose.

**Subd. 2. Task force membership.** Identifies membership on the 19-member task force, including legislators, state agency representatives, and other legislative and executive branch appointees representing the disability community. Provides for appointment of a chair by the governor. Requires appointments by July 31, 2016.

**Subd. 3. First meeting; chair.** Requires the first meeting by October 1, 2016. Provides for election of co-chairs.

**Subd. 4. Duties.** Specifies task force duties regarding (1) review and reporting on use of autonomous vehicles to serve mobility needs of people with disabilities, and (2) designing and supervising a demonstration project (see section 3 of the bill).

## **Section**

**Subd. 5. Authorization.** Permits receipt of donated funds, creates an account in the special revenue fund, and makes a statutory appropriation of account funds to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for task force activities.

**Subd. 6. Compensation.** Prevents per diem or compensation for public members of the task force.

**Subd. 7. Administrative support.** Directs MnDOT to provide administrative staffing and support.

**Subd. 8. Open Meeting Law.** Makes meetings of the task force subject to the Open Meeting Law.

**Subd. 9. Report.** Requires a legislative report on task force findings and analysis of policy issues, due by December 31, 2018.

**Subd. 10. Sunset.** Expires the task force on June 30, 2019.

**3 Autonomous vehicle demonstration project.** Establishes a demonstration project on use of autonomous vehicles in mobility services for people with disabilities.

**Subd. 1. Goal.** Identifies the goal of the project.

**Subd. 2. Selection of vendors.** Provides for vendor selection, vendor equipping of vehicles, insurance requirements, and vendor authority to operate autonomous vehicles as part of the demonstration project.

**Subd. 3. Participants.** Requires inclusion in the project participants who have disabilities that prevent operation of a motor vehicle, from both the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota.

**Subd. 4. Autonomous vehicle operator.** Establishes authority and conditions on operating an autonomous under the demonstration project. Makes the person who engages autonomous operation the operator of the vehicle.

**4 Appropriation.** Appropriates \$5 million in fiscal year 2016 from the general fund to MnDOT for the task force, demonstration project, and administrative expenses. Makes the funds available through fiscal year 2019.

**5 Effective date.** Makes the bill effective the day after enactment.