

Subject Autonomous vehicles

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## Overview

This bill establishes a regulatory framework for autonomous vehicles, including to define terminology, set out authority and requirements for vehicles to operate autonomously, specify minimum insurance coverage requirements, outline the application of motor vehicle and traffic laws, establish regulations for transportation services using autonomous vehicles, and establish state preemption. Effective August 1, 2026.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>Automated driving system.</b> Defines “automated driving system” for the chapter of state statutes on traffic regulations, to be the hardware and software that enables sustained motor vehicle operation.
2	<b>Autonomous vehicle.</b> Defines “autonomous vehicle” for the chapter of state statutes on traffic regulations, to be a motor vehicle equipped with an automated driving system designed to operate the vehicle without human involvement (at level 4 or 5 under SAE automation standards).
3	<b>Dynamic driving task.</b> Defines “dynamic driving task” for the chapter of state statutes on traffic regulations, to refer to the real-time core aspects of vehicle operation (including acceleration and braking, steering, and monitoring and response to the external environment).
4	<b>Dynamic driving task fallback.</b> Defines “dynamic driving task fallback” for the chapter of state statutes on traffic regulations, to be a response by a human operator or an automated driving system

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
	after a system failure involving the driving task or after exit from the operational design domain.
5	<b>First responder interaction plan.</b> Defines “first responder interaction plan” for the chapter of state statutes on traffic regulations, to be a document of procedures on first responder interaction with an autonomous vehicle.
6	<b>Human driver.</b> Defines “human driver” for the chapter of state statutes on traffic regulations, to be a natural individual with a valid license who is in a vehicle and controls some or all of the dynamic driving task.
7	<b>Minimal risk condition.</b> Defines “minimal risk condition” for the chapter of state statutes on traffic regulations, to be a status of a vehicle that can be achieved as a fallback to reduce crash risk when a trip cannot be completed.
8	<b>On-demand autonomous vehicle network.</b> Defines “on-demand autonomous vehicle network” for the chapter of state statutes on traffic regulations, to be a transportation service network that uses software for prearranged transportation using autonomous vehicles, including for compensation.
9	<b>Operational design domain.</b> Defines “operational design domain” for the chapter of state statutes on traffic regulations, to be the set of conditions and limitations for an autonomous vehicle to function under its autonomous driving system.
10	<b>SAE J3016.</b> Defines “SAE J3016” for the chapter of state statutes on traffic regulations, to be a definitions and taxonomy document on driving automation published by SAE International in 2021.
11	<b>[Adds § 169.251] Operation of autonomous vehicles.</b> Establishes various capability and operational requirements for an autonomous vehicle.  <b>Subd. 1. Autonomous vehicle requirements.</b> Disallows autonomous vehicle operation without a human driver physically present unless specified requirements are met, including the capability for an autonomous vehicle to (1)

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	achieve a minimal risk condition, and (2) operate in compliance with traffic laws. Sets labeling requirements.
	<b>Subd. 2. Operating an autonomous vehicle without a human driver.</b> Specifies requirements for a person to cause autonomous vehicle function without a driver present in the vehicle, including to mandate prior authorization by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and submission of a first responder interaction plan. Specifies requirements for the MnDOT authorization process, including application procedures and requirements on information updates.
	<b>Subd. 3. Human drivers permitted to operate.</b> Establishes that the autonomous vehicle requirements do not prevent a human driver who is physically present from operating an autonomous vehicle.
	<b>Subd. 4. Definition of driver; licensure of autonomous vehicles.</b> Identifies the entity that is subject to traffic regulations and citations in circumstances involving autonomous vehicles. Treats automated driving systems as a licensed vehicle operator.
12	<b>[Adds § 169.252] Collisions involving autonomous vehicles.</b> Sets requirements on collisions involving an autonomous vehicle, including to require the vehicle to remain at the scene of a crash and require reporting.
13	<b>[Adds § 169.253] Financial responsibility requirements.</b> Sets insurance requirements for autonomous vehicles, including to (1) require the same auto insurance coverage as other motor vehicles, and (2) mandate third-party liability coverage of at least \$1 million per occurrence for an autonomous vehicle that functions autonomously.
14	<b>[Adds § 169.254] On-demand autonomous vehicle network.</b> Establishes requirements for transportation service networks with prearranged transport using autonomous vehicles.  <b>Subd. 1. On-demand autonomous vehicle network permitted; requirements.</b> Authorizes operation of on-demand autonomous vehicle networks to transport passengers or goods. Sets requirements for service operations, including to allow temporary parking for pick-up or drop-off, require fare disclosure and receipts to riders, and mandate vehicle inspections.  <b>Subd. 2. Not a common carrier.</b> Exempts on-demand autonomous vehicle networks from motor carrier regulations.

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15	<b>[Adds § 169.255] Operation of commercial autonomous vehicles.</b> Provides an exemption for commercial autonomous vehicles, so that commercial vehicle regulations for human drivers do not apply to autonomous vehicle operation without a driver present. Provides for autonomous vehicle width determination.
16	<b>[Adds § 169.256] Autonomous vehicle equipment standards.</b> Exempts an autonomous vehicle that is not designed to be operated by a human from vehicle equipment requirements that are related to human drivers or are not relevant for an automated driving system.
17	<b>[Adds § 169.257] Controlling authority.</b> Establishes state preemption of autonomous vehicle requirements, including to prevent additional local requirements or restrictions and prohibit local licensing, permits, or fees. Allows for vehicle fees and regulations at airport facilities that are consistent with requirements for other transportation services and vehicles.



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