Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

Act 797 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas

91st General Assembly

Regular Session, 2017

By: Representative Collins

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE TESTING OF VEHICLES WITH AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REGULATE VEHICLES WITH DRIVER-ASSISTIVE TRUCK PLATOONING SYSTEMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-51-305 is amended to read as follows:

27-51-305. Following too closely.

(a) The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of vehicles and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway.

(b)(1) The driver of any motor truck or any motor vehicle drawing another vehicle when traveling upon a roadway outside of a business or residence district shall not follow within two hundred feet (200’) of another motor vehicle.

(2) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to prevent overtaking and passing.

(c) Vehicles equipped with driver-assistive truck platooning systems, may follow other vehicles closer than allowed under subsection (a) of this section and subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

(d) As used in this section, "driver-assistive truck platooning system" means technology that integrates sensor array, wireless communication, vehicle controls, and specialized software to synchronize acceleration and braking between two (2) or more vehicles while leaving each
vehicle's steering control and systems monitoring and intervention in the control of its human operator.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 51, Subchapter 14, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

27-51-1408. Driver-assistive truck platooning systems.

(a) A person may operate a driver-assistive truck platooning system on a street or highway of this state if the person files a plan for general platoon operations with the State Highway Commission.

(b) A person may operate a driver-assistive truck platooning system on a street or highway of this state:

   (1) Upon approval of the plan required under subsection (a) of this section by the commission; or

   (2) Forty-five (45) days after the submission of the plan required under subsection (a) of this section, if the plan has not been rejected by the commission.

/s/Collins

APPROVED: 04/01/2017