

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-093

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3 REQUESTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY,
4 AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS CONDUCT A STUDY OF EXISTING ARKANSAS
5 MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC STATUTES TO ENSURE THE TRAFFIC STATUTES ARE
6 OBJECTIVE AND CLEAR FOR COMPLIANCE BY AUTOMATED VEHICLES.
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8 WHEREAS, the operation of automated vehicles is rapidly changing the
9 transportation landscape, and it is important to ensure that the existing
10 motor vehicle traffic statutes are adapted to accommodate this technology;
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13 WHEREAS, many existing motor vehicle traffic statutes in Arkansas may
14 not be written in a way that is clear and objective enough for automated
15 vehicles to comply with them; and
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17 WHEREAS, the purpose of the study is to:

18 (1) Review the current motor vehicle traffic statutes under
19 Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 51, concerning the rules of the road to
20 identify any provisions that need to be revised to make the traffic statutes
21 objective and clear for automated vehicles, including without limitation
22 Arkansas Code:

- 23 (A) § 27-51-104;
24 (B) § 27-51-201;
25 (C) § 27-51-208;
26 (D) § 27-51-301;
27 (E) § 27-51-302;
28 (F) § 27-51-303;
29 (G) § 27-51-305;
30 (H) § 27-51-306;
31 (I) § 27-51-308;
32 (J) § 27-51-310; and
33 (K) § 27-51-311;

34 (2) Identify any motor vehicle traffic statutes that may need to
35 be revised to ensure that automated vehicles can comply with them; and

1 (3) Recommend changes to the motor vehicle traffic statutes that
2 improve the clarity and objectivity of the statute so that automated vehicles
3 can comply with them; and
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5 WHEREAS, the study shall include without limitation:

6 (1) A review of existing motor vehicle traffic statutes under
7 Arkansas Code 27, Chapter 51, including without limitation a review of
8 relevant case law and other legal precedents;

9 (2) A consultation with experts in the field of motor vehicle
10 traffic law and automated vehicles to identify any areas of uncertainty or
11 ambiguity within the motor vehicle traffic statutes; and

12 (3) An analysis of the best practices and standards used by
13 other states and jurisdictions to regulate the use of automated vehicles; and
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15 WHEREAS, the study is a crucial step in ensuring that motor vehicle
16 traffic statutes are adapted to accommodate the growing use of automated
17 vehicles and to promote the safe and efficient integration of automated
18 vehicles onto the streets and highways of the state,
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20 NOW THEREFORE,

21 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND
22 LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
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24 THAT the Senate Committee on Transportation, Technology, and
25 Legislative Affairs conduct a study of existing motor vehicle traffic
26 statutes and provide without limitation:

27 (1) A comprehensive report that identifies any provisions in the
28 motor vehicle traffic statutes studied under Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter
29 51 that may need to be revised so that the motor vehicle traffic statute
30 is objective and compatible with automated vehicles;

31 (2) Recommendations for changes to the motor vehicle traffic
32 statutes to ensure that the motor vehicle traffic statutes are clear and
33 objective for automated vehicles to comply with; and

34 (3) Suggestions for additional research or data collection to
35 further inform the development of objective and compatible motor vehicle
36 traffic laws for automated vehicles.

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Respectfully submitted,

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District 27

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