

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-091

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

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

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

35 (2) Identify any motor vehicle traffic statutes that may need to  
36 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 ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-FOURTH  
22 GENERAL ASSEMBLY:  
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24           THAT the Legislative Council refer to the House Committee on Public  
25 Transportation a study to conduct a review 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,

Senator Justin Boyd  
District 27

Prepared by: DTP/DTP