

1 AN ACT relating to autonomous vehicles.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 186.763 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) Subject to the limitations in subsection (2) of this section, a person may operate a  
5 fully autonomous vehicle on the highways of this state without a human driver  
6 provided that the automated driving system is engaged and the vehicle meets the  
7 following conditions:
- 8 (a) If a failure of the automated driving system occurs that renders that system  
9 unable to perform the entire dynamic driving task relevant to its intended  
10 operational design domain, the fully autonomous vehicle will achieve a  
11 minimal risk condition;
- 12 (b) The fully autonomous vehicle is capable of operating in compliance with the  
13 applicable traffic and motor vehicle safety laws and regulations of this state  
14 when reasonable to do so, unless an exemption has been granted by the  
15 Transportation Cabinet; and
- 16 (c) When required by federal law, the vehicle bears the required manufacturer's  
17 certification label indicating that at the time of its manufacture it has been  
18 certified to be in compliance with all applicable federal motor vehicle safety  
19 standards, including any exemptions granted by the National Highway Traffic  
20 Safety Administration.
- 21 (2) From July 15, 2024, until July 31, 2026, a fully autonomous vehicle for which the  
22 declared gross weight of the vehicle and any towed unit is more than sixty-two  
23 thousand (62,000) pounds shall have a human driver, with the appropriate  
24 credentials to operate the vehicle, present in the vehicle to monitor the performance  
25 of the vehicle and intervene if necessary.
- 26 (3) Prior to operating a fully autonomous vehicle on the highways of this state without  
27 a human driver, a person shall submit a law enforcement interaction plan to the

1 Transportation Cabinet and the Department of Kentucky State Police that describes:

- 2 (a) How to communicate with a fleet support specialist who is available during  
3 the times the vehicle is in operation;
- 4 (b) How to safely remove the fully autonomous vehicle from the roadway and  
5 steps to safely tow the vehicle;
- 6 (c) How to recognize whether the automated driving system is engaged on the  
7 fully autonomous vehicle; and
- 8 (d) Any additional information the manufacturer or owner deems necessary  
9 regarding hazardous conditions or public safety risks associated with the  
10 operation of the fully autonomous vehicle.

11 **(4) A school district shall not operate a fully autonomous vehicle as a school bus, as**  
12 **defined in KRS 156.153, or use any fully autonomous vehicle to transport**  
13 **students for any purpose.**

14 **(5) A person shall not operate a fully autonomous vehicle on the highways of this**  
15 **state if the vehicle requires an operator with a commercial driver's license as**  
16 **defined in KRS 281A.010.**

17 ➔Section 2. KRS 281.764 (Effective August 1, 2026) is amended to read as  
18 follows:

- 19 (1) A motor carrier may operate a platoon on the highways of this state if the motor  
20 carrier complies with this section.
- 21 (2) Motor carriers wishing to operate a platoon shall provide notification to the  
22 department and the **Department of** Kentucky State Police, including a plan for  
23 general platoon operations. The department shall have thirty (30) days from the date  
24 of receipt to review the notification plan submitted and determine whether it will  
25 approve or reject the plan. If the department rejects a submitted plan, it shall inform  
26 the motor carrier of the reason for the rejection and provide guidance on how to  
27 resubmit the notification and plan to meet the standards.

- 1 (3) Only commercial motor vehicles shall be eligible to operate in a platoon.
- 2 (4) An appropriately endorsed driver who holds a valid commercial driver's license  
3 shall be present behind the wheel of each~~[the lead]~~ commercial motor vehicle in a  
4 platoon.
- 5 (5) A commercial motor vehicle involved in a platoon shall not draw another motor  
6 vehicle in the platoon.
- 7 (6) Each commercial motor vehicle involved in a platoon shall display a marking  
8 warning other motorists and law enforcement that the vehicle may be part of a  
9 platoon.
- 10 (7) The department shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with  
11 KRS Chapter 13A to set forth procedures for platooning, including required  
12 elements of a platooning plan.