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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY

James P. White and William “Bill” R. Rehm

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CREATE A COMMITTEE THAT INCLUDES RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ENTITIES TO REVIEW THE CURRENT AND DEVELOPING STATE OF AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOP A PROPOSAL TO ALLOW AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE USE IN NEW MEXICO WHILE ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY.

WHEREAS, in October 2017, the national highway traffic safety administration reported that the yearly nationwide average for police-reported vehicle accidents for the ten years from 2006 through 2015 was more than five million seven hundred seventy thousand; and

WHEREAS, the yearly nationwide average number of fatalities from vehicle accidents for the ten years from 2006 through 2015 was more than thirty-two thousand; and

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1           WHEREAS, the national highway traffic safety  
2 administration estimates that ninety-four percent of all  
3 vehicle accidents are caused by human error; and

4           WHEREAS, a vehicle with modern technology can monitor a  
5 wealth of information regarding roadway hazards and the  
6 movement of other vehicles within its vicinity; and

7           WHEREAS, current and developing autonomous vehicle  
8 technology holds the promise of providing continuous attention  
9 to changing traffic conditions and faster reaction time than  
10 human drivers; and

11           WHEREAS, some of the new model vehicles currently being  
12 sold are equipped for semiautonomous operation; and

13           WHEREAS, fully autonomous vehicles are currently in  
14 limited use in pilot projects in Phoenix, Arizona, and in other  
15 areas, and their presence on United States roadways is expected  
16 to grow rapidly; and

17           WHEREAS, autonomous vehicles may have significant effects  
18 on road use, road safety, road maintenance, vehicle  
19 registration, operator licensing, vehicle repair and  
20 modification, accident liability and security; and

21           WHEREAS, traditionally, individual states have been  
22 responsible for setting the standards for vehicle registration,  
23 operator licensing and traffic laws; and

24           WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is dedicated to road  
25 safety, and motor vehicle policies and laws should be

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1 consistent throughout the state; and

2 WHEREAS, state policy and laws to accommodate the growing  
3 market for autonomous vehicles should be developed with the  
4 involvement of experts and stakeholders from both the private  
5 sector and public agencies;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation be  
8 requested to create and lead an autonomous vehicle committee to  
9 review the current and developing technology for autonomous  
10 vehicle operation and existing state policy and statutes that  
11 may be relevant to autonomous vehicle operations; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to other  
13 individuals or organizations the department of transportation  
14 may include, the autonomous vehicle committee include at least  
15 one member representing each of the department of  
16 transportation, the department of public safety, the taxation  
17 and revenue department, the department of information  
18 technology, the economic development department and the public  
19 regulation commission; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the autonomous vehicle  
21 committee further solicit comments from a wide spectrum of  
22 public and private stakeholders; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the autonomous vehicle  
24 committee present a report to the appropriate legislative  
25 interim committee prior to that committee's final meeting in

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1 2018; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include  
3 recommendations for statutory changes and administrative  
4 policies and programs that may be needed to allow the sale and  
5 operation of autonomous vehicles in New Mexico while ensuring  
6 public safety; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of transportation,  
9 the secretary of public safety, the secretary of taxation and  
10 revenue, the secretary of information technology, the secretary  
11 of economic development and the public regulation commission.