

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 412—COMMITTEE
ON GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

MARCH 25, 2021

Referred to Committee on Growth and Infrastructure

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing motor vehicles.
(BDR 43-1050)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets **[omitted material]** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; revising provisions governing fully autonomous vehicles; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under existing law, a low-speed vehicle is defined as a motor vehicle that: (1) is 4-wheeled; (2) the speed of which that is attainable in 1 mile is more than 20 miles per hour and not more than 25 miles per hour on a paved level surface; (3) weighs less than 3,000 pounds; and (4) complies with certain safety standards. (NRS 484B.637) **Section 3** of this bill creates an exception to the requirement of compliance with the safety standards for low speed vehicles for a vehicle that has been granted an exemption from one or more of those standards by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. **Section 3** also defines "neighborhood occupantless vehicle" as a low-speed vehicle that is not designed, intended or marketed for human occupancy.

Existing law authorizes the operation of a registered low-speed vehicle upon a highway where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. (NRS 484B.637) In addition to such authority, **section 3** authorizes the operation of the type of low-speed vehicle defined as a neighborhood occupantless vehicle, if registered, on a highway where the posted speed limit is greater than 35 miles per hour but not more than 45 miles per hour.

Existing law provides for certain restrictions on speed on the driver of a motor vehicle. (NRS 484B.627, 484B.630) **Sections 1 and 2** of this bill make conforming changes by revising such provisions to apply to an operator of a motor vehicle.

Existing law defines a fully autonomous vehicle as a motor vehicle that is equipped with an automated driving system which is designed to function at a certain level of driving automation. (NRS 482A.036) **Section 4** of this bill makes certain provisions concerning required equipment for a motor vehicle inapplicable to certain fully autonomous vehicles that are exclusively operated by an automated driving system. **Section 4** exempts a fully autonomous vehicle that is exclusively



* A B 4 1 2 R 1 *

operated by an automated driving system from the requirement that it be equipped with: (1) a mirror so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway; (2) windshield wipers; and (3) equipment to light the road with multiple beams. **Section 4** also exempts a fully autonomous vehicle that is operated exclusively by an automated driving system from the requirement that it be equipped with a muffler unless the vehicle contains an internal combustion engine.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 484B.627 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484B.627 1. If any driver ~~{drives}~~ **or operator of** a motor vehicle **drives or operates a motor vehicle** at a speed so slow as to impede the forward movement of traffic proceeding immediately behind the driver ~~{}~~ **or operator**, the driver **or operator** shall:

(a) If the highway has one lane for traveling in each direction and the width of the paved portion permits, drive to the extreme right side of the highway and, if applicable, comply with the provisions of NRS 484B.630;

(b) If the highway has two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic traveling in the direction in which the driver **or operator** is traveling, drive in the extreme right-hand lane except when necessary to pass other slowly moving vehicles; or

(c) If the highway is a controlled-access highway, use alternate routes whenever possible.

2. A person shall not bring a vehicle to a complete stop upon a roadway so as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic unless the stop is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

Sec. 2. NRS 484B.630 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484B.630 1. On a highway that has one lane for traveling in each direction, where passing is unsafe because of traffic traveling in the opposite direction or other conditions, the driver **or operator** of a slow-moving vehicle, behind which five or more vehicles are formed in a line, shall, to allow the vehicles following behind to proceed, turn off the roadway:

(a) At the nearest place designated as a turnout by signs erected by the public authority having jurisdiction over the highway; or

(b) In the absence of such a designated turnout, at the nearest place where:

(1) Sufficient area for a safe turnout exists; and

(2) The circumstances and conditions are such that the driver **or operator** is able to turn off the roadway in a safe manner.



2. A person who violates subsection 1 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

3. As used in this section, "slow-moving vehicle" means a vehicle that is traveling at a rate of speed which is less than the posted speed limit for the highway or portion of the highway upon which the vehicle is traveling.

Sec. 3. NRS 484B.637 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484B.637 1. As used in this section, "low-speed vehicle" means a motor vehicle:

(a) That is 4-wheeled;

(b) The speed of which that is attainable in 1 mile is more than 20 miles per hour and not more than 25 miles per hour on a paved level surface;

(c) The gross vehicle weight rating of which is less than 3,000 pounds; and

(d) That complies with the standards for safety of such a vehicle set forth in Federal Motor Safety Standard No. 500 at 49 C.F.R. § 571.500 ~~H~~, *unless an exemption from one or more provisions of that Standard has been granted for the vehicle by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.*

2. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3:*

(a) If registered, a low-speed vehicle may be operated upon a highway where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

(b) A person shall not operate a low-speed vehicle upon a highway where the posted speed limit is greater than 35 miles per hour, except to cross such a highway at an intersection.

3. *If registered, a neighborhood occupantless vehicle may operate on a highway where the posted speed limit is greater than 35 miles per hour but not more than 45 miles per hour.*

4. *As used in this section, "neighborhood occupantless vehicle" means a low-speed vehicle that is not designed, intended or marketed for human occupancy.*

Sec. 4. Chapter 484D of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. *The provisions of subsection 3 of NRS 484D.210 and NRS 484D.430 and 484D.445 do not apply to a fully autonomous vehicle that is operated exclusively by an automated driving system.*

2. *The provisions of NRS 484D.415 do not apply to a fully autonomous vehicle that is operated exclusively by an automated driving system unless the fully autonomous vehicle is equipped with an internal combustion engine.*

Sec. 5. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2021.

