

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 431

Introduced by Senator Beall

February 25, 2015

An act to amend ~~Section 21705 of, and to add Article 18 (commencing with Section 28200) to Chapter 5 of Division 12 of, Sections 21703 and 21705 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 431, as amended, Beall. Vehicles: driver-assistive truck platooning.

Existing law prohibits a driver of a motor vehicle from following another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of the vehicle and the traffic upon, and the condition of, the roadway.

This bill would require a determination of a reasonable and prudent distance between 2 vehicles, for those purposes, to take into account presence of vehicle automation technology, as described.

Existing law requires motor vehicles being driven in a caravan or motorcade outside of a business or residence district to be operated so as to allow sufficient space, and in no event less than 100 feet, between each vehicle or combination of vehicles so as to enable any other vehicle to overtake or pass.

This bill would provide that the above provision does not apply to a vehicle equipped with a driver-assistive truck platooning system, as defined, that is being driven upon a highway with 2 or more lanes of traffic in the direction of travel.

Existing law prohibits the operation of any vehicle or combination of vehicles that is not equipped as provided. Existing law also prohibits vehicles from being equipped with certain equipment, including, among others, jamming devices.

This bill would authorize the Department of Transportation to conduct a demonstration project to test the use of driver-assistive truck platooning systems with 2 vehicles in the platoon. The bill would require the Department of Transportation, if it authorizes a demonstration project pursuant to that provision, to coordinate with the Department of the California Highway Patrol to determine which types of vehicles and which streets and highways should be included in the demonstration project, provided that only streets and highways where driver-assistive truck platooning systems are likely to be frequently utilized shall be included in the demonstration project.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes-no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 *SECTION 1. Section 21703 of the Vehicle Code is amended to*
- 2 *read:*
- 3 21703. (a) The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow
- 4 another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having
- 5 due regard for the speed of ~~such~~ *the* vehicle and the traffic upon,
- 6 and the condition of, the roadway.
- 7 (b) *A determination of a reasonable and prudent distance*
- 8 *between two vehicles for purposes of subdivision (a) shall take*
- 9 *into account the presence of vehicle automation technology,*
- 10 *including, but not limited to, a driver-assistive truck platooning*
- 11 *system.*
- 12 (c) *For the purposes of this section, “driver-assistive truck*
- 13 *platooning system” means vehicle automation technology that*
- 14 *integrates sensor array, wireless communications, vehicle controls,*
- 15 *and specialized software to synchronize acceleration and braking*
- 16 *between two vehicles, while leaving each vehicle’s steering control*
- 17 *and systems command in the control of its driver.*
- 18 ~~SECTION 1.~~
- 19 SEC. 2. Section 21705 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

1 21705. (a) Motor vehicles being driven outside of a business
2 or residence district in a caravan or motorcade, whether or not
3 towing other vehicles, shall be operated so as to allow sufficient
4 space, and in no event less than 100 feet, between each vehicle or
5 combination of vehicles so as to enable any other vehicle to
6 overtake or pass.

7 (b) (1) This section does not apply to a vehicle equipped with
8 a driver-assistive truck platooning system that is being driven upon
9 a highway with two or more lanes for traffic in the direction of
10 travel.

11 (2) For the purposes of this subdivision, “driver-assistive truck
12 platooning system” means vehicle automation technology that
13 integrates sensor array, wireless communications, vehicle controls,
14 and specialized software to synchronize acceleration and braking
15 between two vehicles, while leaving each vehicle’s steering control
16 and systems command in the control of its driver.

17 ~~SEC. 2. Article 18 (commencing with Section 28200) is added~~
18 ~~to Chapter 5 of Division 12 of the Vehicle Code, to read:~~

19
20 ~~Article 18. Driver-Assistive Truck Platooning~~
21

22 ~~28200. (a) The Department of Transportation may conduct a~~
23 ~~demonstration project to test the use of driver-assistive truck~~
24 ~~platooning systems with two vehicles in the platoon. If the~~
25 ~~Department of Transportation authorizes a demonstration project~~
26 ~~pursuant to this section, it shall coordinate with the Department~~
27 ~~of the California Highway Patrol to determine which types of~~
28 ~~vehicles and which streets and highways should be included in the~~
29 ~~demonstration project. Only streets and highways where~~
30 ~~driver-assistive truck platooning systems are likely to be frequently~~
31 ~~utilized shall be included in the demonstration project.~~

32 ~~(b) For the purposes of this article, “driver-assistive truck~~
33 ~~platooning systems” has the same meaning as in Section 21705.~~

34 ~~SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the~~
35 ~~immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within~~
36 ~~the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into~~
37 ~~immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:~~

38 ~~In order to take advantage of federal funds that are currently~~
39 ~~available to states for the purpose of testing automated vehicle~~

- 1 technologies on roads and highways, it is necessary that this act
- 2 take effect immediately.

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