



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5220

Introduced 2/10/2026, by Rep. Edgar González, Jr.

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/Ch. 12 Art. X heading new  
625 ILCS 5/12-1005 new  
625 ILCS 5/12-1010 new  
625 ILCS 5/12-1015 new  
625 ILCS 5/12-1020 new  
625 ILCS 5/12-1025 new  
625 ILCS 5/12-1030 new

Amends the Equipment of Vehicles Chapter of the Illinois Vehicle Code to create the Autonomous Vehicles Article. Establishes requirements for the operation of autonomous vehicles on public roads for testing purposes by a driver who possesses the proper class of license for the type of vehicle being operated. Allows the Secretary of State Vehicle Services Department to adopt various rules regarding the operation and manufacture of autonomous vehicles. Includes requirements for manufacturers of autonomous vehicles. Requires a notice of autonomous vehicle noncompliance for violations of the Code or local traffic ordinances. Sets forth prohibitions for dealers and manufacturers.

LRB104 20112 LNS 33563 b

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by adding  
5 Article X to Chapter 12 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/Ch. 12 Art. X heading new)

7 ARTICLE X. AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

8 (625 ILCS 5/12-1005 new)

9 Sec. 12-1005. Definitions. As used in this Article:

10 "Autonomous technology" means technology that has the  
11 capability of controlling the lateral and longitudinal motion  
12 of a vehicle on a sustained basis without active physical  
13 control by a human operator, and which further has the ability  
14 to intentionally depart from its current lane of travel on a  
15 marked roadway while under automated motion control.

16 "Autonomous vehicle" means a vehicle equipped with  
17 autonomous technology. "Autonomous vehicle" does not include a  
18 vehicle that is equipped with one or more collision avoidance  
19 systems, including, but not limited to, electronic blind spot  
20 assistance, automated emergency braking systems, park assist,  
21 adaptive cruise control, lane keep assist, lane departure  
22 warning, traffic jam and queuing assist, or other similar

1 systems that enhance safety or provide driver assistance, but  
2 are not capable, collectively or singularly, of driving the  
3 vehicle without the active control or monitoring of a human  
4 operator.

5 "Emergency" means a sudden, unexpected occurrence  
6 demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss or  
7 damage to life, health, property, or essential public  
8 services.

9 "Emergency geofencing message" means a message delivered  
10 using commonly available communication methods to identify a  
11 location using a street address, intersection, coordinates, or  
12 any other reasonable and customary way of identifying a  
13 location, that directs an autonomous vehicle to leave or avoid  
14 an area because of an emergency.

15 "Emergency response official" includes, but is not limited  
16 to, emergency dispatchers, peace officers as defined in  
17 Section 1-157.5, and first responders.

18 "Manufacturer" means the person, as defined in Section  
19 5-109, that originally manufactures a vehicle and equips  
20 autonomous technology on the originally completed vehicle or,  
21 in the case of a vehicle not originally equipped with  
22 autonomous technology by the vehicle manufacturer, the person  
23 that modifies the vehicle by installing autonomous technology  
24 to convert it to an autonomous vehicle after the vehicle was  
25 originally manufactured.

26 "Notice of autonomous vehicle noncompliance" means a

1 notice issued by a peace officer, as defined in Section  
2 1-157.5, that identifies, at minimum, an alleged violation of  
3 this Code or an alleged violation of a local traffic ordinance  
4 adopted pursuant to this Code by an autonomous vehicle while  
5 the autonomous technology is engaged, the date, time, and  
6 location of the alleged violation, and the license plate  
7 number of the autonomous vehicle.

8 "Operator" means the person who is seated in the driver's  
9 seat of the autonomous vehicle, or, if there is no person in  
10 the driver's seat, causes the autonomous technology to engage.

11 "Partial driving automation feature" has the same meaning  
12 as "Level 2 partial driving automation" in the Society of  
13 Automotive Engineers (SAE) Standard J3016 (April 2021).

14 "Vehicle Services Department" means the Secretary of State  
15 Vehicle Services Department.

16 (625 ILCS 5/12-1010 new)

17 Sec. 12-1010. Operation of autonomous vehicles; Vehicle  
18 Services Department rules.

19 (a) An autonomous vehicle may be operated on public roads  
20 for testing purposes by a driver who possesses the proper  
21 class of license for the type of vehicle being operated if all  
22 of the following requirements are met:

23 (1) The autonomous vehicle is being operated on roads  
24 in this State solely by employees, contractors, or other  
25 persons designated by the manufacturer of the autonomous

1       technology.

2           (2) The driver shall be seated in the driver's seat,  
3       monitoring the safe operation of the autonomous vehicle,  
4       and capable of taking over immediate manual control of the  
5       autonomous vehicle in the event of an autonomous  
6       technology failure or other emergency.

7           (3) Prior to the start of testing in this State, the  
8       manufacturer performing the testing shall obtain an  
9       instrument of insurance, surety bond, or proof of  
10       self-insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000, and shall  
11       provide evidence of the insurance, surety bond, or  
12       self-insurance to the Vehicle Services Department in the  
13       form and manner required by the Vehicle Services  
14       Department pursuant to the rules adopted pursuant to  
15       subsection (c).

16           (b) Except as provided in subsection (a), an autonomous  
17       vehicle shall not be operated on public roads until the  
18       manufacturer submits an application to the Vehicle Services  
19       Department, and that application is approved by the Vehicle  
20       Services Department pursuant to the rules adopted pursuant to  
21       subsection (c). The application shall contain, at a minimum,  
22       all of the following certifications:

23           (1) A certification by the manufacturer that the  
24       autonomous technology satisfies all of the following  
25       requirements:

26           (A) The autonomous vehicle has a mechanism to

1 engage and disengage the autonomous technology that is  
2 easily accessible to the operator.

3 (B) The autonomous vehicle has a visual indicator  
4 inside the cabin to indicate when the autonomous  
5 technology is engaged.

6 (C) The autonomous vehicle has a system to safely  
7 alert the operator if an autonomous technology failure  
8 is detected while the autonomous technology is  
9 engaged, and when an alert is given, the system shall:

10 (i) require the operator to take control of  
11 the autonomous vehicle; or

12 (ii) if the operator does not or is unable to  
13 take control of the autonomous vehicle, the  
14 autonomous vehicle shall be capable of coming to a  
15 complete stop.

16 (D) The autonomous vehicle shall allow the  
17 operator to take control in multiple manners,  
18 including, without limitation, through the use of the  
19 brake, the accelerator pedal, or the steering wheel,  
20 and it shall alert the operator that the autonomous  
21 technology has been disengaged.

22 (E) The autonomous vehicle's autonomous technology  
23 meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for the  
24 autonomous vehicle's model year and all other  
25 applicable safety standards and performance  
26 requirements set forth in State and federal law and

1 the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to those  
2 laws.

3 (F) The autonomous technology does not make  
4 inoperative any Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards  
5 for the autonomous vehicle's model year and all other  
6 applicable safety standards and performance  
7 requirements set forth in State and federal law and  
8 the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to those  
9 laws.

10 (G) The autonomous vehicle has a separate  
11 mechanism, in addition to, and separate from, any  
12 other mechanism required by law, to capture and store  
13 the autonomous technology sensor data for at least 30  
14 seconds before a collision occurs between the  
15 autonomous vehicle and another vehicle, object, or  
16 natural person while the autonomous vehicle is  
17 operating in autonomous mode. The autonomous  
18 technology sensor data shall be captured and stored in  
19 a read-only format by the mechanism so that the data is  
20 retained until extracted from the mechanism by an  
21 external device capable of downloading and storing the  
22 data. The data shall be preserved for three years  
23 after the date of the collision.

24 (H) The autonomous vehicle is equipped, in  
25 addition to cameras, with 2 distinct sensing  
26 modalities that can detect and track obstacles in the

1 event of failure of the camera system. Qualifying  
2 sensors include radar and lidar sensors.

3 (2) A certification that the manufacturer has tested  
4 the autonomous technology on public roads and has complied  
5 with the testing standards, if any, established by the  
6 Vehicle Services Department pursuant to subsection (c).

7 (3) A certification that the manufacturer will  
8 maintain, an instrument of insurance, a surety bond, or  
9 proof of self-insurance as specified in rules adopted by  
10 the Vehicle Services Department pursuant to subsection  
11 (c), in an amount of \$5,000,000.

12 (c) The Vehicle Services Department shall adopt rules  
13 setting forth requirements for the submission of evidence of  
14 insurance, surety bond, or self-insurance required by  
15 subsection (a), the submission and approval of an application  
16 to operate an autonomous vehicle pursuant to subsection (b),  
17 and processes related to notices of autonomous vehicle  
18 noncompliance pursuant to Section 12-1020.

19 The rules shall include any testing, equipment, and  
20 performance standards, in addition to those established for  
21 purposes of subsection (a), that the Vehicle Services  
22 Department concludes are necessary to ensure the safe  
23 operation of autonomous vehicles on public roads, with or  
24 without the presence of a driver inside the autonomous  
25 vehicle. In developing these rules, the Vehicle Services  
26 Department may consult with the Illinois State Police Division

1 of Patrol, the Center for Transportation at the University of  
2 Illinois Urbana-Champaign, or any other entity identified by  
3 the Vehicle Services Department that has expertise in  
4 automotive technology, automotive safety, and autonomous  
5 system design.

6 The Vehicle Services Department shall consult recent  
7 reports and studies concerning autonomous vehicle safety to  
8 design a permitting framework which includes multiple testing  
9 and commercial deployment permits based on achievable safety  
10 metrics.

11 The Vehicle Services Department may establish additional  
12 requirements by the adoption of rules, which it determines, in  
13 consultation with the Illinois State Police Division of  
14 Patrol, are necessary to ensure the safe operation of  
15 autonomous vehicles on public roads, including, but not  
16 limited to, rules regarding the aggregate number of  
17 deployments of autonomous vehicles on public roads, special  
18 rules for the registration of autonomous vehicles, new license  
19 requirements for operators of autonomous vehicles, rules for  
20 notices of autonomous vehicle noncompliance, and rules for  
21 revocation, suspension, or denial of any license or any  
22 approval issued pursuant to this Section.

23 The Vehicle Services Department shall hold public hearings  
24 on the adoption of any rules applicable to the operation of an  
25 autonomous vehicle without the presence of a driver inside the  
26 autonomous vehicle.

1       (d) The Vehicle Services Department shall approve an  
2 application submitted by a manufacturer pursuant to subsection  
3 (b) if it finds that the applicant has submitted all  
4 information and completed testing necessary to satisfy the  
5 Vehicle Services Department that the autonomous vehicles are  
6 safe to operate on public roads and the applicant has complied  
7 with all requirements specified in the rules adopted by the  
8 Vehicle Services Department pursuant to subsection (c).

9       Notwithstanding this subsection, if the application seeks  
10 approval for autonomous vehicles capable of operating without  
11 the presence of a driver inside the autonomous vehicle, the  
12 Vehicle Services Department may impose additional requirements  
13 it deems necessary to ensure the safe operation of those  
14 autonomous vehicles, and may require the presence of a driver  
15 in the driver's seat of the autonomous vehicle if it  
16 determines, based on its review pursuant to this subsection,  
17 that such a requirement is necessary to ensure the safe  
18 operation of those autonomous vehicles on public roads.

19       (e) The Vehicle Services Department shall post a public  
20 notice on its Internet website when it adopts the rules  
21 required by subsection (c). The Vehicle Services Department  
22 shall not approve an application submitted pursuant to the  
23 rules until 30 days after the public notice is provided.

24       (f) Federal regulations adopted by the National Highway  
25 Traffic Safety Administration shall supersede the provisions  
26 of this Section if found to be in conflict with any other State

1 law or rule.

2 (g) The manufacturer of the autonomous technology  
3 installed on a vehicle shall provide a written disclosure to  
4 the purchaser of an autonomous vehicle that describes what  
5 information is collected by the autonomous technology equipped  
6 on the vehicle. The Vehicle Services Department may adopt  
7 rules to assess a fee upon a manufacturer that submits an  
8 application pursuant to subsection (b) to operate autonomous  
9 vehicles on public roads in an amount necessary to recover all  
10 costs reasonably incurred by the Vehicle Services Department.

11 (h) If an autonomous vehicle does not have a person in the  
12 driver's seat and commits a traffic violation pursuant to this  
13 Code, the citation shall be issued to the manufacturer and may  
14 be issued by mail.

15 If an autonomous vehicle has a person in the driver's seat  
16 and commits a traffic violation pursuant to this Code while  
17 the autonomous technology is engaged, the citation shall be  
18 issued to the manufacturer and may be issued by mail.

19 If an autonomous vehicle has a person in the driver's seat  
20 and commits a traffic violation pursuant to this Code while  
21 the autonomous technology is not engaged, the citation shall  
22 be issued to the driver.

23 The holder of the testing permit or deployment permit may  
24 contest a citation or penalty under the procedures in this  
25 Code.

1 (625 ILCS 5/12-1015 new)

2 Sec. 12-1015. Manufacturer requirements.

3 (a) A manufacturer shall comply with all of the following  
4 requirements:

5 (1) A manufacturer operating an autonomous vehicle  
6 under a testing permit or deployment permit issued by the  
7 Vehicle Services Department shall maintain a dedicated  
8 emergency response telephone line that is available for  
9 emergency response officials during all hours when an  
10 autonomous vehicle is on a public road. The telephone line  
11 shall be available at no cost to public agencies.

12 The manufacturer shall continuously monitor the status  
13 of each autonomous vehicle on a public road and shall  
14 equip and staff the telephone line to ensure that calls  
15 are picked up within 30 seconds by a remote human operator  
16 who has situational awareness of all autonomous vehicles  
17 on public roads.

18 The remote human operator shall have the ability to  
19 immobilize the autonomous vehicle, allow an emergency  
20 response official to move the autonomous vehicle, or cause  
21 the autonomous vehicle to move as directed by an emergency  
22 response official.

23 (2) A manufacturer operating an autonomous vehicle  
24 under a testing permit or deployment permit issued by the  
25 Vehicle Services Department shall equip each autonomous  
26 vehicle with a 2-way voice communication device that

1 enables emergency response officials that are near the  
2 vehicle to communicate effectively with a remote human  
3 operator who has situational awareness about the  
4 autonomous vehicle. The manufacturer shall ensure that an  
5 emergency response official is able to reach a remote  
6 human operator within 30 seconds after making a request  
7 through the device.

8 The remote human operator shall have the ability to  
9 immobilize the autonomous vehicle, allow an emergency  
10 response official to move the autonomous vehicle, or cause  
11 the autonomous vehicle to move as directed by an emergency  
12 response official.

13 (3) Autonomous vehicles equipped with an override  
14 system in the autonomous vehicle that allows someone  
15 physically present to move the vehicle, pursuant to  
16 subparagraphs (A) and (D) of paragraph (1) of subsection  
17 (b) of Section 12-1010 shall provide access to the  
18 override system to law enforcement and firefighters in  
19 case of emergency to allow law enforcement and  
20 firefighters to completely immobilize the autonomous  
21 vehicle or cause the autonomous vehicle to move as  
22 necessary to address the emergency. The manufacturer shall  
23 provide training for law enforcement and firefighters on  
24 the use of the override system. The training shall be  
25 reviewed on a regular basis by the manufacturer and  
26 updated as changes are needed.

1       (b) The Vehicle Services Department shall not renew,  
2 reinstate, or approve an expansion of the operational design  
3 domain of a permit unless the manufacturer certifies that it  
4 is in full compliance with the requirements under subsection  
5 (a).

6       (c) An emergency response official may issue an emergency  
7 geofencing message to a manufacturer.

8       Within 2 minutes of receiving an emergency geofencing  
9 message, a manufacturer shall issue direction to its fleet to  
10 leave or avoid the area identified.

11       Within 30 business days of receiving a notice that an  
12 emergency response official wishes to begin issuing emergency  
13 geofencing messages, a manufacturer shall provide the  
14 emergency response official with all information necessary for  
15 the emergency response official to begin issuing emergency  
16 geofencing messages and for the manufacturer to receive and  
17 respond to emergency geofencing messages.

18       An emergency geofencing message shall include the initial  
19 duration for the defined avoidance area based on a reasonable  
20 assessment of the emergency. If necessary, an emergency  
21 response official may extend the duration for the avoidance  
22 area.

23       (d) This Section shall only apply to manufacturers of  
24 autonomous vehicles that operate without a human operator  
25 physically present in the autonomous vehicle.

26       (e) Paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a) and

1 subsection (b) shall not apply to a commercial motor vehicle  
2 with a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of  
3 at least 10,001 pounds, whichever is greater. The Vehicle  
4 Services Department may establish requirements by the adoption  
5 of rules, determined in consultation with the Illinois State  
6 Police Division of Patrol, to ensure the safe interaction  
7 between autonomous commercial motor vehicles and emergency  
8 response officials.

9 (625 ILCS 5/12-1020 new)

10 Sec. 12-1020. Notice of autonomous vehicle noncompliance.

11 (a) A peace officer, as defined in Section 1-157.5, may  
12 issue a notice of autonomous vehicle noncompliance upon  
13 observing an alleged violation of this Code or an alleged  
14 violation of a local traffic ordinance adopted pursuant to  
15 this Code.

16 (b) A manufacturer of an autonomous vehicle shall provide  
17 any issued notice of autonomous vehicle noncompliance to the  
18 Vehicle Services Department within 72 hours of issuance, or  
19 within a timeframe otherwise determined by the Vehicle  
20 Services Department. The Vehicle Services Department shall  
21 make available a means by which the manufacturer can provide  
22 the notice.

23 (c) The issuance of a notice of autonomous vehicle  
24 noncompliance shall not create a presumption that the  
25 autonomous vehicle is unsafe and shall not limit the

1 manufacturer's ability to contest the nature or occurrence of  
2 an alleged violation identified in the notice.

3 (d) This Section shall not become operative until the  
4 Vehicle Services Department issues rules addressing notices of  
5 autonomous vehicle noncompliance, as required by Section  
6 12-1010.

7 (625 ILCS 5/12-1025 new)

8 Sec. 12-1025. Severability. The provisions of this Article  
9 are severable. If any provision of this Article or its  
10 application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect  
11 other provisions or applications that can be given effect  
12 without the invalid provision or application.

13 (625 ILCS 5/12-1030 new)

14 Sec. 12-1030. Dealer and manufacturer prohibitions.

15 (a) A dealer or manufacturer shall not sell any new  
16 passenger vehicle that is equipped with any partial driving  
17 automation feature, or provide any software update or other  
18 vehicle upgrade that adds any partial driving automation  
19 feature, without, at the time of delivering or upgrading the  
20 vehicle, providing the buyer or owner with a distinct notice  
21 that provides the name of the feature and clearly describes  
22 the functions and limitations of the feature.

23 (b) A manufacturer or dealer shall not name any partial  
24 driving automation feature, or describe any partial driving

1 automation feature in marketing materials, using language that  
2 implies or would otherwise lead a reasonable person to  
3 believe, that the feature allows the vehicle to function as an  
4 autonomous vehicle or otherwise has functionality not actually  
5 included in the feature. A violation of this subsection shall  
6 be considered a misleading advertisement for the purposes of  
7 the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

8 (c) Compliance with this Section shall not alter any  
9 existing duty of care or limit the civil liability of a  
10 manufacturer or dealer, including, but not limited to, claims  
11 for negligence or product defect.

12 (d) Before delivering a passenger vehicle equipped with a  
13 partial driving automation feature to a dealer, a manufacturer  
14 shall provide information to enable the dealer to comply with  
15 subsection (a). This information shall include specific  
16 language recommended for the notice required in that  
17 subsection. A dealer may reasonably rely on the information  
18 provided by the manufacturer and a dealer shall not be held in  
19 violation of subsection (a) if the manufacturer fails to  
20 provide this information to the dealer or if the information  
21 provided is deemed to be not in compliance with this Section.

22 (e) A manufacturer shall not be held in violation of  
23 subsection (a) if the manufacturer provides a dealer with the  
24 information required under subsection (d) and the dealer fails  
25 to provide the required notice to the buyer or owner.