

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Denise Baum - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Casey Pallister,

HB0097.002.001

HOUSE BILL NO. 97

INTRODUCED BY Z. WIRTH

BY REQUEST OF THE TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING THE PLATOONING OF TRUCKS VEHICLES;

DEFINING PLATOONING; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; REQUIRING THE CONDUCTOR OF THE LEAD

VEHICLE TO HAVE A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE; REQUIRING PERSONS IN A POSITION TO

TAKE CONTROL OF PLATOONED VEHICLES TO HAVE A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE;

PROVIDING FOR SPECIAL PERMITS REQUIRING A STUDY OF PLATOONING SAFETY BY THE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AND PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING

SECTION 61-10-124, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(Refer to Introduced Bill)

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Platooning -- study -- rulemaking. (1) The department of transportation shall complete a feasibility study to determine whether platooning can be safely conducted in Montana. The study must include consideration of Montana's various terrain, weather extremes, effectiveness of supporting communication networks, and any other considerations applicable to the safety of the motoring public.

(2) If, upon completion and analysis of the study required in subsection (1), the department determines that platooning can be safely conducted, it shall adopt rules and standards for platooning. Prior to proposing rules on platooning, the department shall engage stakeholders such as members of the transportation interim committee, representatives of law enforcement agencies, the trucking industry, platooning technology developers, ranchers, drivers, pedestrians, tribal governments, and local governments.

(3) Platooning may be allowed following the implementation of department rules and standards.

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(4) For the purposes of this section, "platooning" means operating partially or fully autonomous motor vehicles that are trailers, trucks, or truck tractors, as defined in 61-1-101, to travel on a highway at electronically coordinated speeds in a unified manner at a following distance that is closer than would be reasonable and prudent without the use of the technology.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 61, and the provisions of Title 61 apply to [section 1].

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