

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3414

To establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Disability Mobility Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding advancing mobility access for the disabled community with respect to the deployment of automated driving systems.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2017

Mr. HARPER (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Disability Mobility Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding advancing mobility access for the disabled community with respect to the deployment of automated driving systems.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DISABILITY MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of
5 appropriations, not later than 6 months after the date of
6 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation
7 shall establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-

1 ministration a Disability Mobility Advisory Council (here-
2 inafter referred to as the “Council”).

3 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—Members of the Council shall in-
4 clude a diverse group representative of business, academia
5 and independent researchers, State and local authorities,
6 safety and consumer advocates, engineers, labor organiza-
7 tions, environmental experts, a representative of the Na-
8 tional Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and other
9 members determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.
10 The Council shall be composed of not less than 15 and
11 not more than 30 members appointed by the Secretary.

12 (c) TERMS.—Members of the Council shall be ap-
13 pointed by the Secretary of Transportation and shall serve
14 for a term of three years.

15 (d) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy occurring in the mem-
16 bership of the Council shall be filled in the same manner
17 as the original appointment for the position being vacated.
18 The vacancy shall not affect the power of the remaining
19 members to execute the duties of the Council.

20 (e) DUTIES.—The Council shall undertake informa-
21 tion gathering activities, develop technical advice, and
22 present best practices or recommendations to the Sec-
23 retary regarding advancing mobility access for the dis-
24 abled community with respect to the deployment of auto-
25 mated driving systems to identify impediments to their use

1 and ensure an awareness of the needs of the disabled com-
2 munity as these vehicles are being designed for distribu-
3 tion in commerce.

4 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The recommendations
5 of the Council shall also be reported to the Committee on
6 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
7 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
8 tation of the Senate.

9 (g) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The es-
10 tablishment and operation of the Council shall conform to
11 the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act
12 (5 U.S.C. App.).

13 (h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—On request of the
14 Council, the Secretary shall provide such technical assist-
15 ance to the Council as the Secretary determines to be nec-
16 essary to carry out the Council's duties.

17 (i) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—On the re-
18 quest of the Council, the Secretary may detail, with or
19 without reimbursement, any of the personnel of the De-
20 partment of Transportation to the Council to assist the
21 Council in carrying out its duties. Any detail shall not in-
22 terrupt or otherwise affect the civil service status or privi-
23 leges of the Federal employee.

24 (j) PAYMENT AND EXPENSES.—Members of the
25 Council shall serve without pay, except travel and per diem

1 will be paid each member for meetings called by the Sec-
2 retary.

3 (k) TERMINATION.—The Council shall terminate 6
4 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

5 (l) DEFINITIONS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section—

7 (A) the term “automated driving system”
8 means the hardware and software that are col-
9 lectively capable of performing the entire dy-
10 namic driving task on a sustained basis, regard-
11 less of whether such system is limited to a spe-
12 cific operational design domain;

13 (B) the term “dynamic driving task”
14 means all of the real time operational and tac-
15 tical functions required to operate a vehicle in
16 on-road traffic, excluding the strategic func-
17 tions such as trip scheduling and selection of
18 destinations and waypoints, and including—

19 (i) lateral vehicle motion control via
20 steering;

21 (ii) longitudinal vehicle motion control
22 via acceleration and deceleration;

23 (iii) monitoring the driving environ-
24 ment via object and event detection, rec-

1 cognition, classification, and response prep-
2 aration;

3 (iv) object and event response execu-
4 tion;

5 (v) maneuver planning; and

6 (vi) enhancing conspicuity via light-
7 ing, signaling, and gesturing;

8 (C) the term “highly automated vehicle”—

9 (i) means a motor vehicle equipped
10 with an automated driving system; and

11 (ii) does not include a commercial
12 motor vehicle (as defined in section 31101
13 of title 49, United States Code); and

14 (D) the term “operational design domain”
15 means the specific conditions under which a
16 given driving automation system or feature
17 thereof is designed to function.

18 (2) REVISIONS TO CERTAIN DEFINITIONS.—

19 (A) If SAE International (or its successor
20 organization) revises the definition of any of the
21 terms defined in subparagraph (A), (B), or (D)
22 of paragraph (1) in Recommended Practice Re-
23 port J3016, it shall notify the Secretary of the
24 revision. The Secretary shall publish a notice in
25 the Federal Register to inform the public of the

1 new definition unless, within 90 days after re-
2 ceiving notice of the new definition and after
3 opening a period for public comment on the
4 new definition, the Secretary notifies SAE
5 International (or its successor organization)
6 that the Secretary has determined that the new
7 definition does not meet the need for motor ve-
8 hicle safety, or is otherwise inconsistent with
9 the purposes of chapter 301 of title 49, United
10 States Code. If the Secretary so notifies SAE
11 International (or its successor organization),
12 the existing definition in paragraph (1) shall re-
13 main in effect.

14 (B) If the Secretary does not reject a defi-
15 nition revised by SAE International (or its suc-
16 cessor organization) as described in subpara-
17 graph (A), the Secretary shall promptly make
18 any conforming amendments to the regulations
19 and standards of the Secretary that are nec-
20 essary. The revised definition shall apply for
21 purposes of this section. The requirements of
22 section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall
23 not apply to the making of any such conforming
24 amendments.

1 (C) Pursuant to section 553 of title 5,
2 United States Code, the Secretary may update
3 any of the definitions in subparagraph (A), (B),
4 or (D) of paragraph (1) if the Secretary deter-
5 mines that materially changed circumstances
6 regarding highly automated vehicles have im-
7 pacted motor vehicle safety such that the defini-
8 tions need to be updated to reflect such cir-
9 cumstances.

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