

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 669 (Berman)

As Amended July 19, 2017

Majority vote

ASSEMBLY:

SENATE:

Original Committee Reference: **HIGHER ED.**

SUMMARY: Extends authority for an existing vehicle platooning technology testing program from January 1, 2018, until January 1, 2020.

The Senate amendments delete Assembly version of the bill and instead:

- 1) Extend the existing authorization for the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), to conduct testing of technologies that enable drivers to safely operate motor vehicles with less than 100 feet between each vehicle or combination of vehicles until January 1, 2020, and requires Caltrans to submit an updated report on the testing to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2019.
- 2) Prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle participating in the testing unless the person holds a valid driver's license of the appropriate class for the participating vehicle.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires motor vehicles being driven outside a business or residence district in a caravan or motorcade to be operated as to allow sufficient space of at least 100 feet between each vehicle or combination of vehicles so as to enable any other vehicle to overtake or pass.
- 2) Authorizes Caltrans, in coordination with CHP, to conduct testing of technologies that enable drivers to safely operate motor vehicles with less than 100 feet between each vehicle or combination of vehicles until January 1, 2018.
- 3) Provides that Caltrans may only use motor vehicles and streets and highways that CHP authorizes for the technology testing.
- 4) Requires Caltrans to report its findings from the testing to the Legislature by July 1, 2017.

AS PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY, this bill extended the California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Program sunset date from January 1, 2018 to July 1, 2023.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) Caltrans costs of approximately \$600,000 over two years to conduct additional testing.
- 2) One-time costs to submit an updated report to the Legislature would be minor and absorbable.

COMMENTS: In 2015, the Governor signed SB 719 (Hernandez, Chapter 163, Statutes of 2015), which authorized Caltrans to test technologies that enable drivers to operate motor vehicles with less than 100 feet between each vehicle or combination of vehicles, commonly referred to as “truck platooning.” SB 719 allowed Caltrans to partner with the University of California, Berkeley and other technology partners to take advantage of a Federal Highway Administration grant to fund research to develop and test a cooperative adaptive cruise control (CACC) system for heavy trucks.

SB 719 required Caltrans to report on the results of its testing to the Legislature by July 1, 2017. In its report, Caltrans recommends extending the authorization to test platooning technology for another two years, to allow additional development and testing needed to further refine CACC technology. This bill enacts that recommendation.

Analysis Prepared by: Justin Behrens / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093

FN: