



Assemblywoman Catharine Baker

AB 1444: Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Project

What is the background of this proposal?

Senate Bill 1298 (Padilla, 2012) authorized the operation of autonomous vehicles on public roads for testing purposes, and required the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to adopt regulations for the operation of autonomous vehicles on public roads by January 1, 2015. Last year, Governor Brown approved AB 1592 to allow autonomous vehicle pilot projects in Bishop Ranch office park setting in San Ramon and at the GoMentum Station in the former Concord Naval Weapons Station.

On March 10, 2017, the DMV proposed regulations regarding autonomous vehicles. These regulations bring California closer to creating the innovative technology, traffic relief, and jobs that come with autonomous vehicles technology. While the DMV regulations introduced in March define and explain how autonomous vehicles are to operate on public roads, the regulations have not yet been finalized. AB 1444 is needed now more than ever to continue the forward thinking trend of California. To encourage technological innovation in the field of transit and to keep jobs and technological innovation in California, AB 1444 will authorize the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority to conduct a shared autonomous vehicle demonstration project to test autonomous vehicles in the City of Dublin, where bus use and suburban driving environment for testing is ideal.

What is the problem to be addressed?

For California to be on the cutting edge of transportation technology and a potential hotbed for investment, development, and new jobs for autonomous vehicles, the State must support the growth of testing programs that advance autonomous vehicle technology. Otherwise we are very much at risk of losing innovation opportunities to other states and European countries.

What does this bill do?

This bill would authorize the Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority to conduct a pilot project for the testing of autonomous vehicles not equipped with a steering wheel, brake pedal, accelerator or operator for 120 days. This bill would ensure that the vehicle being tested would meet specific safety and insurance guidelines. These include a maximum speed limit of 35 miles per hour, proof of insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000, and submitting a detailed description of the testing program to the department.

Who is the staff contact for this bill?

Paige Haskin: (916)319-2016; Paige.Haskin@asm.ca.gov

Support

Alameda County Transportation Commission
Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority