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Authors: Hamilton and others

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Analyst: Matt Burress

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Overview

This bill creates a task force on use of autonomous vehicles to provide transportation for people with disabilities, establishes a corresponding demonstration project, and appropriates \$5 million from the general fund for these activities.

Section

1 Definition of autonomous vehicle. Defines the term “autonomous vehicle” for the bill.

2 Establishment of autonomous vehicles task force. Creates a task force to examine autonomous vehicle policies and legislation, and oversee a demonstration project, for providing transportation services to people with disabilities.

Subd. 1. Purpose. Establishes the task force and purpose.

Subd. 2. Task force membership. Identifies membership on the 19-member task force, including legislators, state agency representatives, and other legislative and executive branch appointees representing the disability community. Provides for appointment of a chair by the governor. Requires appointments by July 31, 2016.

Subd. 3. First meeting; chair. Requires the first meeting by October 1, 2016. Provides for election of co-chairs.

Subd. 4. Duties. Specifies task force duties regarding (1) review and reporting on use of autonomous vehicles to serve mobility needs of people with disabilities, and (2) designing and supervising a demonstration project (see section 3 of the bill).

Section

Subd. 5. Authorization. Permits receipt of donated funds, creates an account in the special revenue fund, and makes a statutory appropriation of account funds to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for task force activities.

Subd. 6. Compensation. Prevents per diem or compensation for public members of the task force.

Subd. 7. Administrative support. Directs MnDOT to provide administrative staffing and support.

Subd. 8. Open Meeting Law. Makes meetings of the task force subject to the Open Meeting Law.

Subd. 9. Report. Requires a legislative report on task force findings and analysis of policy issues, due by December 31, 2018.

Subd. 10. Sunset. Expires the task force on June 30, 2019.

3 Autonomous vehicle demonstration project. Establishes a demonstration project on use of autonomous vehicles in mobility services for people with disabilities.

Subd. 1. Goal. Identifies the goal of the project.

Subd. 2. Selection of vendors. Provides for vendor selection, vendor equipping of vehicles, insurance requirements, and vendor authority to operate autonomous vehicles as part of the demonstration project.

Subd. 3. Participants. Requires inclusion in the project participants who have disabilities that prevent operation of a motor vehicle, from both the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota.

Subd. 4. Autonomous vehicle operator. Establishes authority and conditions on operating an autonomous under the demonstration project. Makes the person who engages autonomous operation the operator of the vehicle.

4 Appropriation. Appropriates \$5 million in fiscal year 2016 from the general fund to MnDOT for the task force, demonstration project, and administrative expenses. Makes the funds available through fiscal year 2019.

5 Effective date. Makes the bill effective the day after enactment.