

**VEHICLE PLATOONING AMENDMENTS**

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper**

House Sponsor: Kay J. Christofferson

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions of the Traffic Code related to safe following distance.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines "connected platooning system";
- ▶ provides an exemption to a minimum following distance requirement for the operator of a vehicle that is part of a connected platooning system; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**41-6a-711**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapters 277 and 412

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **41-6a-711** is amended to read:

**41-6a-711. Following another vehicle -- Safe distance -- Exceptions -- Penalty.**

(1) As used in this section, "connected platooning system" means a system that uses vehicle-to-vehicle communication to electronically coordinate the speed and braking of a lead

29 vehicle with the speed and braking of one or more following vehicles.

30 ~~[(1)]~~ (2) The operator of a vehicle:

31 (a) may not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having  
32 regard for the:

33 (i) speed of the vehicles;

34 (ii) traffic upon the highway; and

35 (iii) condition of the highway; and

36 (b) shall follow at a distance so that at least two seconds elapse before reaching the  
37 location of the vehicle directly in front of the operator's vehicle.

38 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) Subsection ~~[(1)]~~ (2)(b) does not apply to:

39 (a) funeral processions or to congested traffic conditions resulting in prevailing vehicle  
40 speeds of less than 35 miles per hour; or

41 ~~[(b) a connected vehicle technology testing program that uses networked wireless  
42 communication among vehicles, infrastructure, or communication devices that is:]~~

43 ~~[(i) approved by the Department of Transportation in consultation with the Department  
44 of Public Safety; and]~~

45 ~~[(ii) conducted outside of an urbanized boundary as defined by the United States  
46 Census Bureau.]~~

47 ~~[(3) The Department of Transportation shall report the results of the testing program  
48 conducted under Subsection (2)(b) to the Transportation Interim Committee by no later than  
49 October 30 of any year that a testing program is conducted.]~~

50 (b) the operator of a vehicle that is:

51 (i) part of a connected platooning system; and

52 (ii) not the lead vehicle.

53 (4) A violation of Subsection ~~[(1)]~~ (2) is an infraction.