

**Senator Wayne A. Harper** proposes the following substitute bill:

**VEHICLE PLATOONING AMENDMENTS**

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper**

House Sponsor: Kay J. Christofferson

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**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

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

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



26 **41-6a-711. Following another vehicle -- Safe distance -- Exceptions -- Penalty.**

27 (1) As used in this section, "connected platooning system" means a system that uses  
28 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 ~~[(+)]~~ (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 ~~[(+)]~~ (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 ~~[(+)]~~ (2) is an infraction.