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Title: Utility of Autonomous Vehicles for Individuals Who are Visually Impaired or Developmentally Disabled

Introduced by: Jerome I. Finkelstein, MD, for the Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Original Author: Jerome I. Finkelstein, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee E

House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

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Whereas, individuals who are visually impaired or developmentally disabled rely on public and private means for transportation, and

Whereas, the functionality of autonomous or “self-driving” vehicles span a range from almost complete driver engagement to no driver engagement whatsoever<sup>1</sup>, and

Whereas, implementation of proven autonomous vehicles may result in reduced automobile accidents and occupant injury or death, with the consequence of lower health care costs, improved public safety, and lower automobile insurance cost, and

Whereas, most autonomous vehicles currently under development are generally at a level where driver monitoring and engagement is essential for safe driving, and

Whereas, individuals who are visually impaired or developmentally disabled may not meet the requirements necessary for monitoring an autonomous vehicle at the current level of automation, and therefore would not qualify to operate such vehicles; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS, in conjunction with the Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, supports physician input on the research into the capability of autonomous or “self-driving” vehicles to enable individuals who are visually impaired or developmentally disabled to benefit from autonomous vehicle technology; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our AMA to work with the National Transportation Safety Board to support physician input on the research into the capability of autonomous or “self-driving” vehicles to enable individuals who are visually impaired or developmentally disabled to benefit from autonomous vehicle technology.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$1,000 or more for costs related to the adoption of new or revised MSMS or AMA policy.

**Relevant MSMS Policy:** None

**Relevant AMA Policy:** None

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nhtsa.gov/technology-innovation/automated-vehicles-safety#issue-road-self-driving>