

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 308

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD AND SENATOR CORTEZ

MOTOR VEHICLES: Provides relative to vehicle platooning

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:81(B) and (C) and to enact R.S. 32:1(95) and 81(D), relative  
3 to vehicle platooning; to authorize non-lead motor vehicles in a platoon to follow  
4 other motor vehicles in a platoon closely; to exempt non-lead motor vehicles in a  
5 platoon from operating such vehicle in a manner that allows sufficient space to  
6 enable any other vehicle to enter and occupy the space between any motor vehicle  
7 in a platoon; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 32:81(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
10 32:1(95) and 81(D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §1. Definitions

12 When used in this Chapter, the following words and phrases have the  
13 meanings ascribed to them in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates a  
14 different meaning:

15 \* \* \*

16 (95) "Platoon" or "platooning" means a group of individual motor vehicles,  
17 including any truck, truck-tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or any combination of these  
18 vehicles, utilizing vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology to travel in a unified  
19 manner at electronically coordinated speeds.

20 \* \* \*

1 §81. Following vehicles; exceptions

2 \* \* \*

3 B. The driver of a motor truck, when traveling upon a highway outside a  
4 business or residential ~~district~~ area, shall not follow another motor truck within four  
5 hundred feet, but this shall not be so construed as to prevent one motor truck from  
6 overtaking and passing another.

7 C. Motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or  
8 ~~residence-district~~ residential area in a caravan or motorcade, whether or not towing  
9 other vehicles, shall be so operated as to allow sufficient space between each such  
10 vehicle or combination of vehicles so as to enable any other vehicle to enter and  
11 occupy such space without danger. This provision shall not apply to a funeral  
12 procession.

13 D. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the operation of a non-  
14 lead motor vehicle in a platoon.

15 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2019.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 308 Original

2018 Regular Session

Havard

**Abstract:** Authorizes a non-lead motor vehicle in a platoon to follow another motor vehicle in a platoon closely and exempts such vehicles from operating each vehicle with sufficient space between them as to enable any other motor vehicle to enter and occupy such space.

Proposed law defines "platoon" or "platooning" as a group of individual motor vehicles, including any truck, truck-tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or any combination of these vehicles, utilizing vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology to travel in a unified manner at electronically coordinated speeds.

Present law prohibits the driver of a motor vehicle from following another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent and prohibits the driver of a motor truck from following another motor truck within 400 feet when traveling upon a highway outside a business or residential district.

Present law requires that motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or residential district in a caravan or motorcade be operated as to allow sufficient space between each vehicle or combination of vehicles as to enable any other vehicle to enter and occupy such space without danger.

Proposed law changes "residential district" to "residential area" and specifies that the provisions of present law do not apply to non-lead vehicles in a platoon but otherwise retains present law.

Effective Jan. 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 32:81(B) and (C); Adds R.S. 32:1(95) and 81(D))