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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ▪ SUITE 24-E ▪ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ▪ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

From: Adam Siebers, Assistant Revisor

Date: February 1, 2022

Subject: Senate Bill No. 379

Summary

Senate Bill No. 379 regulates the use of autonomous motor vehicles.

Section 1 – Defines terms used in the bill.

Section 2 – Prohibits any city or county from enacting an ordinance or resolution prohibiting the use of autonomous motor vehicles. Any such ordinance or resolution is deemed null and void.

Section 3 – Grants autonomous motor vehicles the ability to operate while traveling the middle mile in Kansas regardless of whether a human operator is physically present in the vehicle. Such vehicles must be able to:

- (1) Operate in compliance with traffic laws;
- (2) negotiate railroad crossings lawfully and safely;
- (3) operate in compliance with federal law and safety standards;
- (4) comply with insurance requirements; and
- (5) achieve minimal risk of harm or injury if the automated driving system is unable to perform.

Section 4 – Requires a human operator to possess a valid driver’s license when the automated driving system is not engaged on a vehicle. For vehicles operating with the automated driving system engaged, the owner of the vehicle is considered the operator for assessing compliance

with traffic laws. Lastly, a remote operator of the automated driving system is required to possess a valid driver's license for the class of vehicle being operated.