

SENATE BILL 676

By Green

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5;
Title 6; Title 7; Title 39; Title 40; Title 54; Title 55;
Title 56; Title 65 and Title 67, relative to vehicles
operated by unconventional means.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-108, is amended by designating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and adding the following new subsection (c):

For purposes of any vehicle operating as part of a platoon, as defined by § 55-8-101, the requirements of subsection (a) are satisfied if the certificate of registration is at all times carried in the first or lead vehicle in the platoon.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-101, is amended by adding the following new appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Platoon" means a group of individual motor vehicles that are traveling in a unified manner at electronically coordinated speeds;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-124(d), is amended by deleting the language "No" and substituting instead the language "Except for a motor vehicle in a platoon, no".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 8, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new, appropriately designated section:

(a) A person may operate a platoon on the streets and highways of this state after the person provides notification to the department of transportation and the department of safety. The notification provided pursuant to this subsection (a) must include a plan for general platoon operations.

(b) If the notification and the plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a) are not rejected by either the department of transportation or the department of safety within thirty (30) days after receipt of the notification and the plan, the person may operate a platoon on the streets and highways of this state.

(c) For purposes of a platoon operating pursuant to this section:

(1) Vehicles in the platoon are not a caravan or motorcade;

(2) The lead vehicle in the platoon is not drawing any subsequent vehicle in the platoon; and

(3) If the platoon includes a commercial motor vehicle, an appropriately endorsed driver who holds a valid commercial driver license must be present behind the wheel of each commercial motor vehicle in the platoon.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-12-102(10), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(10) "Operator" means:

(A) For purposes of a conventionally operated vehicle, every person who is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle whether or not licensed as an operator or chauffeur under the laws of this state; and

(B) For purposes of a vehicle operating in a platoon, as defined by § 55-8-101, the person in control of the lead vehicle of the platoon;

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.