

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1199
(Representatives D. Ruby, Becker, Jones, Kasper, Keiser, Lefor, Louser)
(Senators Burckhard, Kreun, Oban)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 39-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to platoons; to amend and reenact section 39-10-18 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to following a motor vehicle too closely; and to provide a penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 39-10-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-10-18. Following too closely.

1. The driver of a motor vehicle may not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway.
2. The driver of any truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle when traveling upon a roadway outside of a business or residence district and which is following another truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle shall, whenever conditions permit, leave sufficient space so that an overtaking vehicle may enter and occupy such space without danger, except that this does not prevent a truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle from overtaking and passing any vehicle or combination of vehicles.
3. Motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or residence district in a caravan or motorcade whether or not towing other vehicles must be so operated as to allow sufficient space between each such vehicle or combination of vehicles so as to enable any other vehicle to enter and occupy such space without danger. This provision does not apply to funeral processions.
4. This section does not apply to the operation of a non-lead vehicle in a platoon.
5. As used in this section and section 2 of this Act, "platoon" means a group of motor vehicles using vehicle-to-vehicle communications to travel in a unified manner at close following distances on a multilane, limited-access, divided highway.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 39-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Motor vehicle platoons.

1. The department, in coordination with the state highway patrol superintendent, shall develop an operational plan that provides guidelines for operating a platoon. The plan must include operational information that must be provided by a platoon technology provider or commercial motor vehicle operator. The department may restrict platooning operations in accordance with the guidelines or the operational information provided in the plan.
2. A platoon may not operate unless the platoon technology provider or the commercial motor vehicle operator files an operational plan with the department and the plan is approved for general platoon operations. If the department does not approve the plan, the department shall inform the platoon technology provider or commercial motor vehicle operator of the reason for the disapproval and provide guidance on how to resubmit the plan to obtain approval.

3. A person operating a motor vehicle in a platoon without an approved plan must be assessed a fee of one hundred dollars.
4. A person operating a motor vehicle in violation of the guidelines in an operational plan must be assessed a fee of one hundred dollars.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1199.

House Vote: Yeas 85 Nays 2 Absent 7

Senate Vote: Yeas 42 Nays 3 Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2019,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State