

**Moving
PennDOT
Forward**



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driver and Vehicle Services Update

Bureau of Motor Vehicles – Research and Support Operations Section
P.O. Box 68031, Harrisburg, PA 17106-8031

This bulletin may be downloaded by visiting the Driver and Vehicle Services
website at www.dmv.pa.gov.

Tom Wolf, Governor

Leslie S. Richards, Secretary

BULLETIN NO. 19-11

April 2019

SPECIAL EDITION

Act 117 - Platooning and Highly Automated Vehicles

Act 117, signed into law on October 24, 2018, and goes into effect April 22, 2019, amends multiple sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code.

Act 117 has amended Section 102 to add the following definitions:

- "Highly automated work zone vehicle" - A motor vehicle used in an active work zone, as implemented by the department or the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, as applicable, which is:
 - (1) equipped with an automated driving system; or,
 - (2) connected by wireless communication or other technology to another vehicle allowing for coordinated or controlled movement.
- "Platoon" - A group of buses, military vehicles or motor carrier vehicles traveling in a unified manner at electronically coordinated speeds at following distances that are closer than would be reasonable and prudent without the coordination. The term does not include a school bus or a school vehicle.

Additionally, Section 3317 was added related to operating a platoon on Pennsylvania highways. This section establishes PennDOT as the lead agency on platooning and added exception and restriction information. Additionally, this section requires platoon vehicles to have a visual identifier and file a plan for general platoon operations with the department.

Act 117 has also amended the Vehicle Code to add Chapter 85 related to highly automated vehicles, including authorizing the locations to deploy a highly automated work zone vehicle. This section adds a definition for an advisory committee and establishes the parameters to establishing a Highly Automated Vehicle Advisory Committee and the composition of the members on the committee and alternates.

Please distribute this information to the appropriate members of your staff.

**AGENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE ALL OF THEIR EMPLOYEES RECEIVE PENNDOT'S DRIVER
AND VEHICLE SERVICES UPDATE BULLETINS**