SB 981   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Outlines vehicle requirements for automated motor vehicles. Establishes procedures by which automated motor vehicle manufacturers submit certificates of compliance to Department of Transportation. Permits the operation of an on-demand automated motor vehicle network.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The terms "automated motor vehicle"and "autonomous motor vehicle" refer to motor vehicles that utilize sensors, computers and self-control systems to sense the surrounding road environment and other vehicles on the road and navigate with limited or no human input. There has been a rise in technology that allows vehicles to perform some driver tasks; features such as automatic transmission and cruise control have been around for decades.

Today there are six levels of vehicle automation: *Level 0* refers to vehicles that have no automated control systems but which can issue warnings such as proximity to a road hazard; *Level 1* includes features such as adaptive cruise control, parking assist with automated steering, and lane-keeping assistance; *Level 2* involves the vehicle itself executing acceleration, braking and steering, where the driver is responsible for responding if automated systems fail to respond; *Level 3* allows the driver to completely turn over vehicle operation within known, limited environments, again with responsibility for taking control as needed; *Level 4* involves a vehicle capable of autonomous operation in all but extenuating circumstances, such as severe weather; and *Level 5* requires no human attention or intervention other than setting destination and engaging the system.

A number of vehicle manufacturers are developing and testing automated motor vehicles, and several jurisdictions are allowing for their operation on public roads. In addition, ride share companies such as Uber and Lyft are in the process of developing fleets of self-driving, autonomous vehicles that would be available for use by ride share customers.