

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1199**  
**with Senate Amendments**  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1199**

Sixty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Representatives D. Ruby, Becker, Jones, Kasper, Keiser, Lefor, Louser

Senators Burckhard, Kreun, Oban

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 39-10 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to platoons; to amend and reenact section 39-10-18 of the North Dakota  
3 Century Code, relating to following a motor vehicle too closely; and to provide a penalty.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

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

7 **39-10-18. Following too closely.**

- 8 1. The driver of a motor vehicle may not follow another vehicle more closely than is  
9 reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the  
10 traffic upon and the condition of the highway.
- 11 2. The driver of any truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle when traveling upon a  
12 roadway outside of a business or residence district and which is following another  
13 truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle shall, whenever conditions permit,  
14 leave sufficient space so that an overtaking vehicle may enter and occupy such space  
15 without danger, except that this does not prevent a truck or motor vehicle drawing  
16 another vehicle from overtaking and passing any vehicle or combination of vehicles.
- 17 3. Motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or residence  
18 district in a caravan or motorcade whether or not towing other vehicles must be so  
19 operated as to allow sufficient space between each such vehicle or combination of  
20 vehicles so as to enable any other vehicle to enter and occupy such space without  
21 danger. This provision does not apply to funeral processions.
- 22 4. This section does not apply to the operation of a non-lead vehicle in a platoon.

1       5. As used in this section and section 2 of this Act, "platoon" means a group of motor  
2           vehicles using vehicle-to-vehicle communications to travel in a unified manner at close  
3           following distances on a multilane, limited-access, divided highway.

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

6       **Motor vehicle platoons.**

- 7       1. The department, in coordination with the state highway patrol superintendent, shall  
8           develop an operational plan that provides guidelines for operating a platoon. The plan  
9           must include operational information that must be provided by a platoon technology  
10          provider or commercial motor vehicle operator. The department may restrict platooning  
11          operations in accordance with the guidelines or the operational information provided in  
12          the plan.
- 13       2. A platoon may not operate unless the platoon technology provider or the commercial  
14          motor vehicle operator files an operational plan with the department and the plan is  
15          approved for general platoon operations. If the department does not approve the plan,  
16          the department shall inform the platoon technology provider or commercial motor  
17          vehicle operator of the reason for the disapproval and provide guidance on how to  
18          resubmit the plan to obtain approval.
- 19       3. A person operating a motor vehicle in a platoon without an approved plan must be  
20          assessed a fee of one hundred dollars.
- 21       4. A person operating a motor vehicle in violation of the guidelines in an operational plan  
22          must be assessed a fee of one hundred dollars.