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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 582**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 33.2-274.2, relating to Department of*
5 *Transportation; autonomous truck-mounted attenuators; pilot program authorized.*

6 Patron—Glass

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 33.2-274.2 as follows:**10 **§ 33.2-274.2. Autonomous truck-mounted attenuators; deployment in mobile work zones; pilot program**
11 **authorized.**12 **A. For purposes of this section, "mobile work zone" means the area in which there is a continuous or**
13 **intermittent multi-vehicle mobile operation advancing at a speed of no greater than 25 miles per hour for**
14 **highway maintenance or construction purposes, including roadway striping, debris removal, and pothole**
15 **repair.**16 **B. The Department may establish a pilot program for the implementation and deployment of autonomous**
17 **truck-mounted attenuators (ATMAs) within mobile work zones.**18 **C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when participating in such pilot program, ATMAs may be**
19 **operated in autonomous mode within active mobile work zones on state-maintained highways. While**
20 **operating in autonomous mode, ATMAs shall be deployed in a leader-follower configuration and shall be**
21 **continuously monitored by a remote operator. Such remote operator shall have the capability to visually**
22 **observe such ATMAs' surroundings and adjust such ATMAs' path or bring such ATMAs to a complete stop,**
23 **as necessary. A human driver shall not be required to be physically present within an ATMA during such**
24 **operation in autonomous mode. However, outside of active mobile work zones, including transport zones on**
25 **public highways to and from such mobile work, ATMAs shall be operated by and occupied by a human driver**
26 **in accordance with all applicable motor vehicle operation laws and regulations.**27 **D. No ATMA may be utilized in such pilot program in any mobile work zone unless it has been**
28 **successfully tested under an approved testing plan, developed and approved by the Department, to**
29 **demonstrate reliable operation and performance in a leader-follower configuration. Test results shall be**
30 **reviewed and approved by the Department.**31 **E. The Department shall submit an annual report summarizing the pilot program's status and efficacy to**
32 **the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Transportation no later than December 1 of each year.**33 **2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on December 31, 2031.**

INTRODUCED

HB582