

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

by Larry Becker



Twenty six percent of mass transit commuters have missed a stop due to distractions on a mobile device.

Legislators in 23 states have introduced 53 bills regulating autonomous (self driving) cars. Key issues include liability and testing rules. One of the main issues is whether a licensed driver should be required in the vehicles during on-road testing. California regulators recently said yes. But the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says no. Self-driving car manufacturers are asking Congress for national laws pertaining to their vehicles.

Major automakers and the government have reached an agreement to make automatic emergency braking standard equipment on most cars by 2022. Automatic emergency braking uses cameras, radar and other sensors to see objects in the way and slow or stop a vehicle if the driver doesn't react. The technology is already available on many models.

With all of the major storms in various states over the past few months have damaged most highways and bridges in the areas. This will cause major traffic delays as efforts are made to repair the damages. Also, be wary about purchasing vehicles from these states as they may have suffered flood damage

The number of pedestrian deaths caused by vehicles is increasing. In the first half of 2015 there were : 347 in California, 273 in Florida, 235 in Texas, 129 in New York, 87 in Arizona, 42 in Oregon, 41 in Washington and 24 in Nevada.

Not all of the following state bills are laws at this time, but have recently been introduced and are currently under consideration by the respective legislatures.

ARIZONA

The Dept. of Transportation plans to install 250 highway signs to remind drivers that the penalty for cheating in HOV lanes is \$400.

CALIFORNIA

Senator Ted Gaines has reintroduced legislation in the state senate to exempt all motor vehicles prior to the 1981 model year from the emission-inspection requirement. Current law requires the lifetime testing of all 1976 and newer model year vehicles.

The state is looking for 5,000 volunteers this summer for an experiment lasting nine months to see what it would be like if drivers paid for state road repairs based on how many miles they drive in their cars or trucks rather than gallons they buy at the pump.

As of March 29th, the rebates for purchasers of “plug-in hybrid electric vehicles” will increase up to \$1500, battery electric vehicles - \$2500 and fuel cell electric vehicles \$5,000. To qualify for these rebates, applicants must have house hold incomes less than or equal to 30% of the federal poverty level. For an individual, the Air Resources Board says the annual income limit is \$35,640, and for a house hold of 4, it is \$72,900. There is also a \$7,500 federal tax credit for plug-in electric vehicles and battery electric vehicles, individual car savings for low and moderate income buyers under the new eligibility requirements will range from \$10,500 up to \$11,500. Single tax filers who earn \$250,000 will no longer qualify for the rebates as they did previously.

COLORADO

The state highway dept. is putting up a concrete barrier on U.S. Highway 550 south of Durango where a slab of rock broke away from the mountainside and landed on the road north of Durango. The concrete barrier will block off of what remains of an estimated 700 tons of rock that has been pushed against the hillside to shore it up. No date has been announced for completion of the project.

D.C. WASHINGTON

The National Park Service warned that the crumbling Memorial Bridge over the Potomac River may be closed to traffic in five years if it doesn't get an overhaul. It has needed repairs for several years.

HAWAII

State officials are considering reopening Waipio Valley to the public now that the Big Island's dengue fever outbreak seems to be subsiding. It was a popular area for tourists.

IDAHO

The city of Ketchum is banning drivers from using cellphones while driving. Idaho has no state law that bans the use.

ILLINOIS

An orange detour sign at the corner of Diversey Parkway and Sheffield Ave. in Lincoln Park (Chicago area) misspelled the state's name in directing drivers to the Advocate Illinois Masonic Center entrance, the Chicago Tribune reports. It was spelled Illions on the sign.

Chicago City Council has approved a measure to allow a 50-cent surcharge on cab fares paid with credit cards and raising taxes on cigars.

Legislation has been introduced to create a road-tax fee for owners of vehicles registered in Illinois and also increase the gas tax.

IOWA

The Iowa house has amended and approved legislation to require the issuance of only a single license plate for motor vehicles. Under the amendment, sport cars and vehicles registered as antique (25 years old or older) would be included among those allowed to display a single plate attached to the rear of the vehicle.

KANSAS

The city of Lawrence has decided against allowing people to pay \$3 parking tickets with canned food donations. (Parking tickets for only \$3???)

LOUISIANA

Traffic is flowing on both spans of the Curtis-Coleman Memorial Bridge over the Red River. Both spans are in use, but each span has only one lane of traffic for the time being.

MAINE

Affordable downtown parking in Portland has become so hard to find that the Portland Stage Company is growing concerned that people may stop attending its plays. It's having an impact, and a devastating one said Anita Stewart, executive director for the Portland Stage Company. (So, if you want to go, go early to find a parking space.)

The Maine Turnpike Authority said it will close the Gray and Cumberland service plazas the third week of March so renovations can take place. No completion dates have been announced.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority will end the late-night weekend hours in late March. Board members say they can no longer continue subsidizing the pilot program as they try to cut over all cost at the MBTA.

State Attorney General Healey has announced that a judge has issued a preliminary injunction barring online auto title lender liquidation LLC from making and collecting on loans.

MICHIGAN

The Michigan House has approved legislation to require that forest roads be open to motorized use by the public unless otherwise designated by the Dept. of Natural resources.

MINNESOTA

The State Dept. of Public Safety will review all vanity license plates after the discovery of one that was offensive to Muslims, Minnesota Public Radio reports.

MISSOURI

A House panel heard testimony on March 9th on three bills that would make it an infraction for a driver to read or send text messages while driving.

MONTANA

SAY BYE-BYE – Yellowstone National Park is retiring its fleet of bright yellow Bombardier snow coaches.

NEBRASKA

Legislation which provides for the issuance (for \$100 fee) of a single license plate for passenger cars which were not originally equipped with a bracket on the front of the vehicle has been signed into law.

The state's new license plate will feature the iconic Sower atop the state capitol. The plate has a navy blue stripe, "Nebraska" in gold lettering, and the years 1867 and 2017, a nod to the state's 150th birthday.

NEVADA

Gov. Sandaval has announced plans for new electric car charging stations for Fallon, Tonopah and Hawthorne.

McCarran International Airport (Las Vegas) announced the opening of a cellphone parking lot for drivers waiting to pick up passengers. It is meant for drivers awaiting a call from an arriving passenger to arrange a pickup at the arrivals curb.

A Decatur, Indiana company plans to start construction this fall on a full-service repair station for commercial and recreational vehicles in Mesquite. It is expected to open late this year or early next year.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The senate Transportation Committee has approved legislation to exempt rare or historically significant vehicles from emissions control standards.

NORTH DAKOTA

A federal appeals court has ruled the state can offer a "Choose Life" license plate for abortion opponents without offering a plate with an opposing message.

OREGON

They said NO WAY! Voters in Bend have rejected the city's plan to raise the gas tax to pay for road improvements.

RHODE ISLAND

The state Transportation Dept. is planning to begin the replacement of the Shippee Bridge in April. It will be closed to all traffic for about 4 months.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Many people in South Dakota are very unhappy with the new beige-on-blue license plates. Drivers are expressing their frustration saying they are too dark and look dirty. George Washington is facing the wrong way. State law demands license plates include a replica of the signature memorial, "provided that such replica can be reproduced on a motor vehicle license plate." Mount Rushmore was designed by American sculptor Gutzon Borglum, who began his work in 1927 and completed it 14 years later. When asked who designed the new plate, Dept. of Revenue spokesman, Jonathan Harms said "that's not something I'm willing to talk about. The new design also makes identifying numbers and letters hard to read.

Legislation that allows the issuance of a single license plate for special-interest vehicles has been signed into law. The new law requires the vehicle owner to sign an affidavit stating that the vehicle is driven less than 6,000 miles per year, and is not used for general or commercial transportation, but only for occasional transportation, parades, public displays and related pleasure or hobby activities, and the owner must submit the odometer reading annually upon registration renewal.

Rapid City is considering forgiving more than \$100,000 in unpaid parking tickets issued in 2011 and 2012.

TENNESSEE

The state House Transportation Committee voted to kill a bill seeking to raise the mandatory age for toddlers to ride in rear-facing car seats from 1 to 2.

A rock slide on Interstate 75 near Pioneer could keep the north-south artery closed in both directions for weeks, forcing a 33-mile detour. While the slide primarily affected northbound lanes, officials closed the road in both directions because debris traveled

into the median and they need to evaluate the stability of the hillside. No date for reopening has been announced.

VIRGINIA

Police in Chesterfield County uncovered an illegal gambling operation inside a Midlothian Turnpike store that displayed merchandise for sale but also contained about 200 computer stations that customers could use to play casino-like games and win cash. No Big Winner there!

WEST VIRGINIA

As of March 25th, Jeeps, Hummers and other full-size four-wheel drive vehicles will have access to the Hatfield-McCoy Trail's 53-mile Bearwallow Trail System.

WISCONSIN

Hobart, a village of 7,861 people has the honor of being named The Most Boring Place in Wisconsin according to the RoadSnacks.net website.

WHAT'S UP HERE AND THERE

Drivers in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana region spent 81 hours in idling in traffic last year, the most of any U.S. metropolitan area, according to a new study from the data company Inrix.

***BARGAINS AHEAD** - The fourth annual 301 Endless Yard Sale will take place June 17-18 along a 100 mile stretch of U.S. 301 in North Carolina. Just bring cash and let your wife shop and shop.*

Registration is open for a 400-mile bike tour from Buffalo to Albany, New York, along the old Erie Canal. This year's Cycle the Erie Canal tour along the historic corridor runs from July 10-17. The \$725 registration fee includes camping accommodations, breakfasts and dinners. (Don't wait – sign up now)

Equality!! The New Hampshire House has killed a bill without discussion that would have banned women from going topless on state beaches. The state has no law preventing women from going topless where men have the same privilege, The Hampshire Union Ledger reports.

Going on vacation??? The winners of the 10 best Reader's Choice Awards for Best National Park Beaches are: #1-Cape Lookout National Seashore- North Carolina, #2-Johnson Beach, National Seashore, Florida and Miss., #3- Assateague beach, Maryland and Virginia, #4- West Beach, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana, #5 -Sand Beach, Arcadia, Maine, #6- Rialto Beach, Olympic, Washington, #7-Esch Road Beach, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan, #8- Cape Hatteras Beach, Cape Hatteras North Carolina, #9-Coast Guard Beach, Cape Cod, Mass., and #10-Trunk Bay Beach, Virgin Islands.

