

## **OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS**

### **PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE**

*by Larry Becker*



According to a report by NBC, drivers are seeing rate increases on their auto insurances policies due to increased distracted driving. According to the report, 36% of all drivers admit to using cellphones or texting while driving. Three major insurance companies have raised their rates by as much as 16%. The average for auto insurance is \$926 per year.

Daylight saving time started during World War 1. Surveys show that traffic accidents increase on the first two days of Daylight saving time. Also, there is an increase in the number of heart attacks during the same time period.

Driverless cars are being tested in Arizona, California, Texas, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Washington State.

In 2014, more than 5,700 older adults were killed and more than 246,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes. Per mile traveled, fatal crashes increased noticeably starting at age 70 and are the highest among drivers age 85 and older.

Don't Smile!!! The Idaho DMV will no longer allow people to flash a big grin when they get their picture taken for a driver's license.

The Ryan Bernard Funeral Services in Memphis, Tenn. has a drive-thru viewing area which is a convenience for those who would prefer to stay in their cars. Funereal homes in Compton, Ca, Paradise Chapel in Saginaw, Michigan, also offer drive-thru viewing.

Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to cap the amount of ethanol that can be blended into conventional gasoline at 10% and prohibit the sale of E-15 (gasoline with 15% ethanol).

According to a recent report, on an average, 13 pedestrians are killed in auto accidents every day.

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

In California, a bill has been introduced to help drivers who have trouble paying for parking citations. Under the bill, certain cities would be required to allow people to pay parking citations in installments over a year if they ask for the

extra time. The goal is to help people avoid getting caught in a financial trap when their failure to pay the citations on time causes penalty fees to be added, and that is followed in some cities with notifications to the DMV, which puts a lien on their licenses and ultimately ends with them losing their license.

## **ALABAMA**

A new vehicle license plate will benefit the Alabama state parks. The plate costs an additional \$50.

## **ARKANSAS**

The new Broadway Bridge connecting downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock is now open to traffic.

A proposal to change the definition of historical vehicles from 25 years old or older to 45 years old or older, was withdrawn from consideration on the House floor.

## **ARIZONA**

The state Dept. of Transportation is adding a cash payment option to its kiosks at 22 DMV offices. The kiosks until recently could only accept credit or debit cards.

The Tucson City Council has passed a ban on holding cellphones while driving.

## **CALIFORNIA**

California and Nevada authorities are exploring ways to deal with congestion in the Lake Tahoe area. Proposals include roundabouts, an additional 20 miles of bike and pedestrian trails, a water taxi service between north and south shores and a \$74 million realignment of Hwy 50 through Lake Tahoe and the Nevada state line.

DMV and Uber have reached an agreement on testing driverless cars on streets in the state. Drivers will still be required and 39 people have been licensed to serve as back-up drivers. Cars with no steering wheels, no pedals and nobody at all inside could be driving themselves on Ca. roads by the end of the year, under proposed new state rules that would give a powerful boost to the fast-developing technology. Also under the proposed regulations, any driverless car must be remotely monitored and able to pull itself over safely in an emergency.

The city of Carlsbad plans to scan the license plates of all cars coming into the city. Police say they have seen a spike in property crimes, and say most are committed by suspects from other cities.

The DMV say that the old black plate with gold lettering is the most popular one ever. There is a six month wait to get the plate.

## **INDIANA**

Plans are in the works for a paved 9.2 mile pedestrian and bicycle trail that would connect the cities of Noblesville and Fishers.

An Indian historical marker was dedicated on March 22<sup>nd</sup> in recognition of the 1824 murders of nine American Indians near Pendleton. Three men were hanged for the crimes in 1825.

The state DMV has denied a man's request for a personalized license plate that reads "atheist". The agency did not give a reason for the denial, but notes it can reject things it considers improper or offensive to good taste or decency.

## **KENTUCKY**

Two Amish men who sued the mayor and police chief of Auburn over an ordinance requiring horses to wear excrement-catching bags voluntarily withdrew their complaint.

## **MAINE**

The state Dept. of Transportation has lowered the speed limit on Interstate 295 from Falmouth to Topsham by 5 mph. The new speed limit is 65 mph.

The Transportation Dept. says a \$15 million reconstruction of the viaduct that carries U.S. 1 traffic through Bath is three weeks ahead of schedule. The original completion date was Memorial Day weekend.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

Legislation has been introduced to create a separate definition for "antique motor vehicles" and require that they undergo annual emissions inspections to ensure that they meet emissions standard in effect at the time of manufacture. The state already exempts all vehicles manufactured before 2003 from emissions tests.

## **MISSISSIPPI**

A state House Committee chairman held up Senate bills to name highways after people back home after the Senate killed a bill to fund road repairs. Rep. Charles Busby said no one would be honored to have a dilapidated road named for them.

The city of Oxford is seeing an increase in revenue since it raised its parking meter fees. The city had approved a 25 cents per hour increase in January.

## **MISSOURI**

Legislation to allow a camper or fifth-wheel trailer more than 25 years old, to be permanently registered for a \$52.50 fee has been approved by the House Transportation Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee. It would also allow

those possessing a year of manufacture license plate more than 25 years old to use the plate as a historic trailer plate if the configuration of letters and numbers has not been issued to someone else. The bill has been approved by the House and sent to the Senate Transportation, infrastructure and Public Safety Committee.

## **MONTANA**

Legislation to provide for the issuance of a single rear mounted license plate for certain motor vehicles has been approved by the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee and will be sent to the Senate.

## **NEBRASKA**

Omaha's parking division is working on upgrades that will allow drivers to use their smartphones to pay for parking in city garages.

## **NEVADA**

U.S. 95 in downtown Las Vegas will be narrowed to two lanes between Rainbow Drive and the Spaghetti Bowl in each direction due to road construction that will last through the end of the year.

March first is known as 'Impact Day' in the Las Vegas area. All auto repair shops are required to have a valid permit to operate from Clark County and the DMV. Usually starting March first, state inspectors check auto shops in their area to see if they have a valid permit and if it has been renewed. The first offense for not having a valid permit costs \$500. The permits cost \$26 yearly, plus a minimum bond requirement of \$500 for repair garages, \$10,000 for body shops and \$100,000 for auto dealers. State wide, there are 350 body shops registered with the DMV and 1,650 repair shops.

Legislation to alter the requirements for vehicles eligible for registration as "classics" has been introduced in the Senate. Under the bill, an owner of a vehicle with a "CLASSIC Rod" or "CLASSIC CAR" special license plate who is seeking an emissions-inspection exemption must provide a verification of the odometer reading of the vehicle. The verifications would be completed for a fee by an approved inspector at certain emissions-compliance stations to determine that the vehicle was driven less than 5,000 miles the previous year. It also requires proof that the vehicle is covered only by a collector motor-vehicle liability policy

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Legislation to establish a road-user fee for all New Hampshire motor vehicles with- a -miles -per-gallon rating of more than 22.5, will not be considered in a vote by the full House and is essentially dead for the year.

## **NEW MEXICO**

The town of Sedillo wants to build a wall of state license plates along its stretch of historic Route 66. Retro66 is raising money to erect a wall next to a gas station built in the 1940s.

State lawmakers are working on a measure to adorn special license plates with hot peppers. Researchers say the state's soil and weather combine to give its peppers a unique flavor and character.

### **NEW YORK**

Legislation to create a vehicle titling and registration classification for street rods and customs vehicles has been reintroduced in the State Assembly.

### **NORTH DAKOTA**

For almost 70 years, North Dakota has banned parking meters on public streets. But that may be coming to an end. Gov. Burum wants to encourage more parking turnover, leading to more retail sales and more tax revenue.

### **OKLAHOMA**

The State Supreme Court says the state Dept. of Public Safety is taking too long to revoke the driver's licenses of suspected drunken drivers.

State lawmakers are considering a ban on smoking in vehicles where children are riding.

### **OREGON**

Legislation that would have required owners of vehicles 25 years or older to pay a \$1,000 "impact fee" every five years was killed after objections from vehicle owners and pressure from SEMA.

### **WEST VIRGINIA**

Legislation that would make it a criminal offense to disturb the peace by using certain exhaust systems has been reintroduced in the State House.

Legislation to empower three or more contiguous counties to form regional recreation authorities to establish new recreational trail systems and recreation management programs tailored to the needs of the communities has been reintroduced. This bill aims to create additional opportunities for off-road recreation.

The House Roads & Transportation Committee has approved legislation to create a special procedure for a person in possession of an abandoned antique vehicle, to apply for and receive title to the vehicle.

Legislation to provide for a special plate for use on collector vehicles and allow for the transfer of these plates between the collector vehicles owned by the collector has been approved and will now be considered by Finance Committee.

A state funded roadside assistance program may be eliminated. There is a proposal to transfer the program's \$4 million grant to road repairs, but

supporters say Courtesy Patrol Drivers are the “eyes and ears of the roadway” who help stranded motorists.

## **WISCONSIN**

State transportation officials have given up on expanding the Interstate between Madison and the Wisconsin Dells.

## **WYOMING**

Authorities are stepping up traffic enforcement along a stretch of western Wyoming roads in response to semi-trailers ignoring the seasonal closing of the Teton Pass.

## **WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE**

Amazon has applied for a liquor license for its “drive thru” grocery store in San Francisco. Customers would order their groceries on line, receive a pick-up time, drive to the store and their orders would be brought to their cars. Walmart has a similar type of store in Bentonville, Ark, which opened in 2014.

Alphabet Inc autonomous car company, Waymo, has sued Uber for trade secret misappropriation, patent infringement and unfair competition. This involves Uber’s self-driving truck company, Otto. Uber has several other problems also at this time such as employee suits over sexual harassment of employees. One of the senior staff members was asked to resign.

A study by AMCI Global has found that most people do not trust car companies or dealers. Trust varied by brands.

Fun and games!! Two men in New Hampshire were arrested after one of them drove a snowmobile at high speeds on an icy lake while pulling another man on skis. Fun and Games??

An investigation found that Hertz car renters in the San Francisco area were charged bridge tolls even tho they never crossed the bridges. The vehicles came with a EZ-Pass reader that allows the vehicles to cross the bridges without stopping to pay a toll. Most of the bridges in the area accept the EZ-Pass system and do not have toll collectors. Hertz was charging a fee for the system, but did not inform people when they rented vehicles.

Real Smart!! Police in Boca Raton Florida arrested a man who stole a \$150,000 Maserati from an auto dealer. It wasn’t hard to catch him. He had to show his driver’s license before he could get behind the wheel.

In 2016, consumers spent two and a half times more on ride-hailing services than on taxis and limos.

The Trump administration is moving to roll back federal fuel-economy requirements that would have forced automakers to significantly increase the efficiency of new cars and trucks.

A Corvallis, Oregon auto dealership was shut down by the state after problems arose with multiple people claiming ownership of the same vehicle. Courts filling list at least 119 vicims.

According to The History Place website, the U.S. Government began issuing paper money in 1862.

More and more states have imposed increased fines and restrictions for driving the left lane of multilane highways.

West Virginia lawmakers say they may allow “as is” sale of used cars.

*Larry Becker*

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