



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

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

ARIZONA

Dozens of city workers in Chandler are are using self-driving vehicles in partnership with Waymo.

A new report from SmartGrowth America shows that Phoenix and Glendale are the nation's most dangerous place to walk.

CALIFORNIA

AAA estimated that 5.68 million Californian's drove 50 miles or more to celebrate Independence Day which is a 4% increase over last year.

Many county roads and city streets suffered damages in the earthquakes in early July. It will requirer time to make the repairs, so if you plan to drive in the areas, check for road or street detours.

A new gas tax took effect July 1st that makes the California gas tax the highest in the nation. According to NBC news, the U.S. average cost for a gallon of gas is \$2.74 to \$2.85, but in California, the average cost for gas is \$3.35 plus.

According to a report, CHP arrested 589 DUI drivers between 6 pm July 3rd and 6 am Friday July 5th. That works out to approximately one every 5 minutes during the enforcement period.

A bill working it's way through the Legislature would requir smog inspections every two years on big rigs registered in the state. Presently big rigs are exempt. Not much information on the bill at this time.

DELAWARE

Several 5-digit license plates were up for grabs as of July 9th. Low digit number licesne plates are in great demand in the state.

D.C. WASHINGTON

D.C is one of the most unsafe cities to drive in. Allstate Insurance Company found that the district is second to last among among 200 cities in safe driving. Only Baltimore was worse.

GEORGIA

Jekyll Island is raising parking fees by \$2 at the costal state park starting July 1st.

HAWAII

The state will soon provide drivers the option to select X as their gender on driver's licenses. The gender X option is for drivers who prefer not to identify as male or female.

In Lihue, a local group is counting cars approachiing Haena State Park with the intention of regulating visitor parking. Kuhio Highway Regulators intentends to moniter rental cars on the highway.

ILLINOIS

State troopers are teaming up with truckdrivers to crack down on distracted driving. "Troopers in a Truck" is a program that has troopers riding along in cabs to better spot violations.

On July 1st, the gas tax doubled and several new laws on texting and driving took effect. The state gas tax is still lower than California's.

KANSAS

Drivers can no longer be charged with a crime for refusing to a field sobriety test under a new state law. Refusal to comply comes with a year long license suspension, the same max suspension for failing a breathalyzer test.

Electric charging stations have been placed at the Topeka, Lawrence and Towanda service centers on the Kansas Turnpike.

MAINE

Gov. Mills has signed a bill that eliminates the requirement to have a motorcycle license to operate an autocycle, a cross between a car and motorcycle.

MASSACHUSETTS

More than 1,000 drivers in the state have had their driver's licenses suspended following a Registry of Motor Vehicle review, prompted by a crash that killed motorcyclists in New Hampshire. The unprocessed out-of-state violations were discovered in a bin at at registry headquarters and during a search of the agency's archives dating to 2011.

MONTANA

The U.S. Supreme Court will consider reviewing a state program that gives tax credits to religious groups. The state shut down the program because it violated the Montana constitution ban on state aid to religious organizations.

MISSOURI

Gov. Parson has vetoed a bill that would have allowed some motorcycle riders to drive without helmets, citing opposition to an unrelated provision in the measure.

NEBRASKA

Officials say transportation problems persist on county roads following massive floods this spring.

The city of Omaha will start using a new device called a “barnacle” to immobilize vehicles with unpaid parking tickets.

NEVADA

The state Highway Patrol says passengers must be alive to be counted as occupants in cars using the high-occupancy vehicle lane. The reminder was prompted by a traffic stop in June involving a hearse traveling in the carpool on I-15

Blocked views! Authorities are cracking down on public nudity at Lake Tahoe Beaches that have been clothing optional for decades despite laws in place.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Gov. Sununu has vetoed a bill that would have required all motor vehicles purchased or leased by the state to achieve zero emissions by 2039. (Long Time)

The Gov. let a bill become law without his signature that would allow a non-binary gender option on driver’s licenses and ID cards.

NORTH CAROLINA

The state DMV has begun offering a third standard plate. Previously motorists could choose between the “First in Flight” background or the “First in Freedom” theme. Now they can pick a plate with the national motto “In God We Trust” at the top and the state motto near the bottom.

NEW YORK

An Erie County clerk has filed a lawsuit challenging a new state law authorizing driver’s licenses for immigrants who are in the country illegally.

OKLAHOMA

Drivers in Oklahoma City who owe fines and fees for traffic violations, will now be able to settle for pennies on the dollar under an amnesty program from the City Council.

Officials in the state say the number of structurally deficient bridges in the state has fallen from about 1,170 in 2004 to 132 in 2019.

The state DMV is starting a new department to focus on coordinating statewide efforts to expand mass transit.

OREGON

Undocumented immigrants will be able to obtain driver's licenses under a measure sent to the Gov's desk. On June 30th, Senators voted 17 to 10 to expand driving privileges to to all Oregon residents regardless of immigrant status.

The state Dept. of Transportation has expanded its road usage charge program, "OREGO". The voluntary program charges motorists based on miles driven instead of through fuel taxes.

State officials have fully opened a road circling Crater Lake National Park while closing two backcountry campsites because of hazardous trees.

SOUTH DAKOTA

An assessment of the state's highways and byways following spring storms has pegged damages at \$7.5 million.

A multimillion dollar upgrade on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial started the third week of July.

TENNESSEE

As of July 1st, drivers in the state could face a \$200 fine for using a cell phone while behind the wheel.

VERMONT

The state wants to increase the number of electric vehicles on it's roads by more than 16 times by 2025.

VIEGINIA

A new measure that ends the suspension of driver's licenses of people with unpaid court fines took effect July 1st.

State transportation officials are asking the pubic for ideas on how to improve the Interstate 95 corridor.

A limited-edition license plate is being offered to celebrate the University of Virgina's men's basketball teams 2019 national championship.

WASHINGTON

The state Transportation Commission is expected to vote in December on a proposal to replace the gas tax with a pay-per-mile system.

WEST VIRGINIA

State officials say the state turnpike revenue jumped during Fourth of July holiday travel period this year after tolls doubled in January, but the number of toll-paying riders declined. (Did not know riders had to pay a toll)

Whattsuup here and there!!!

A woman in South Carolina hijacked a car by throwing a nonpoisonous snake into the drivers's open window. When the female driver exited the vehicle, the hijacker jumped into the vehicle and drove off. She was stopped and arrested by police a few blocks away.

The areas where 15 of American-made vehicles are produced are as follows: Jeep-Illinois, Honda Odyssey-Alabama, Honda Ridgeline, Pilot & Passport-Alabama, Corvette-Kentucky, Acura MDX & Acura RDX (except hybrids)- Ohio, Chevy Colorado, & GMC Canyon-Missouri, Camaro-Michigan, Toyota Avalon-Kentucky, Ford F150-Missouri and Michigan, Toyota Tunda-San Antonio and the Honda Accord-Ohio. Note- These vehicles are assembled there. The parts are made in various counties and states and shipped to assembly points.

Bonuses!! Some drivers in Mulvane Kansas got lucky when a malfunctioning toll machine spat out coins instead of accepting money near a casino.

AAA estimated that nearly 49 million Americans drove 50 miles or more to celebrate Independence Day, the highest number for July 4th. That was about 2 million more than the 46.9 million Americans who traveled 50 miles or more in 2018.

Bicyclists killed in traffic accidents has risen 10% and pedestrian deaths have increased by 2%. The number of auto drivers and passengers killed in auto accidents has dropped 1% compared to 2017.

The 2020 Ford Explorer will offer tires that fix themselves. They are designed to handle the most common tire puncture, a small object penetrating the tire in the tread area. They are manufactured by Michelin who also supplies them to the Chevy Bolt.

Production on the VW Beetle ended in mid-July. The U.S. was once VW's most important foreign market, peaking 563,522 cars in 1968. Production of the Golf SportWagen and the Golf Alltrack will end after the 2019 model year.

A report states that only 30% of Tesla buyers are women. They see the electric vehicles as "impractical toy" with too many gadgets.

According to a survey by Hilton (Hampton) Hotels, 77% of Americans agree road trips are their favorite way to travel, but 44% of them say that the journey is stressful.

Harley Davidson plans to introduce their electric motorcycles soon. They will offer free charging at the dealerships and has arranged for several thousand charging stations across the U.S. They did not announce how long the “free charge” would be.

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25 July 2019

