

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAT'S UP HERE AND THERE

by Larry Becker



According to a report on NBC news, there are 100,000 bridges in the U.S. that are old enough to qualify for Social Security!

Federal regulators have proposed a long-awaited test for child safety seats side impact crash protection that consumer advocates say will bring child safety in cars more in line with protection required for adults. The feds have been considering the changes for the past 10 years.

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. Some bills were passed and signed during 2013 and take effect on January 1, 2014.

The McLaren Auto, a major developer of new auto products, is working on a vibrating windshield designed to clear water and debris from the windshield according to the Sunday Times. The design is based on jet fighter plane technology that uses high frequency sound rays to repel bugs, rain and other potential obstructions.

ALABAMA

The Montgomery Advertiser reports that less than 6,000 of Alabama's 3.8 million licensed drivers have obtained a STAR ID. The new IDs are Alabama's way to comply with the federal REAL ID law, which was enacted in 2005 as a security response to acts of terrorism.

ARKANSAS

Officials in Higginson have a new fleet of vehicles for use during emergencies or natural disasters. In 2013 Higginson acquired three Humvees and a military dump truck through a military surplus program, said Higginson Mayor Randall Homsley.

CALIFORNIA

New problems have surfaced on the San Francisco-Oakland Bridge new span. A state panel said records show that CALTRANS knew of the weld defects and withheld the information from the public. Several state Legislators are demanding a full investigation about the work performed on the new span.

A proposed initiation to increase California's vehicle license fee, would raise up to \$4 billion annually for state and local transportation programs, according to the Legislative Analyst's office. The ballot measure would ultimately charge motorists an extra 1% of the vehicle's value each year. The fee has been 0.65% of the vehicle's market value since late 1990, when with a temporary increase to 1.15% from May 2009 through June 2011. Supporters have said they will decide in January whether to go forward.

The Legislature has enacted SB 806 into law. This gives DMV the authority to start a 3 year pilot program that would eliminate the yearly renewal license plate stickers. Instead of stickers, the DMV might electronically update your car's computerized ID pad. DMV says they still have a few bugs to work out before starting the program. No information on cars that do not have computers.

One of the new laws effective Jan. 1, allows counties to increase registration fees by \$1 for passenger vehicles and \$2 for commercial vehicles to fund programs related to vehicle theft crimes in those counties. (You can expect to see all of the counties say they have a BIG vehicle theft problem).

AB 60 allows driver's licenses for immigrants who are in the country illegally. The DMV will spend 2014 designing the licenses, which will become available Jan.1, 2015.

As of Jan. 1, a new law prohibits a person under the age of 18 from using an electronic wireless communication device to write, send or read a text-based communication while driving, even if it's equipped with a hands-free device.

A proposal in the legislature would make it mandatory for motorcycle riders to wear fluorescent safety vests while riding bikes.. Bikers are against the proposal as they say the vest would conceal the club names that they proudly sport.

In May and June, CALTRANS will close several lanes of the W-X Freeway (hwy 50 & 99) in Sacramento as part of a major project to make repairs and resurface the elevated freeway through central Sacramento. It is estimated that a quarter of million drivers from the north, south, west and east use this freeway daily.

Owners of electric vehicles in the Silicon Valley are finding it harder to access car-charging stations at work, creating incidents of "charer rage" among drivers. Installation of the charging stations has not kept pace with soaring demand, the San Jose Mercury News reports. Cars are being unplugged by other electric vehicle owners while being

charged causing animosity among employees. A charge can take as little as 30 minutes.

COLORADO

As of Jan. 1, 2014, any Colorado driver who refuses a sobriety test when stopped will be branded a persistent drunk driver. If they want to get their driver's license back under a one-year suspension, they will be required to hook a breathalyzer to their car to start it and must stay off the roads for at least two months.

CONNECTICUT

A new state law says drivers "shall remove any accumulated ice or snow from vehicles, including the hood, trunk and roof of such vehicle, so that any ice or snow accumulated on such vehicle does not pose a threat to persons or property while the vehicle is being operated on any street or highway of the state." Those who fail to do so can be fined \$75. If snow or ice flying from vehicles results in injury or property damage, drivers of non-commercial vehicles can be fined \$200 to \$1,000. The penalty for commercial drivers is \$500 to \$1,250.

D.C. WASHINGTON

On Dec. 30th, a new set of cameras began ticketing drivers for speeding and infractions at stop signs, crosswalks and intersections. Police activated the cameras in late November, and so far they have been issuing warnings.

FLORIDA

Police officers in Melbourne handed out scratch-off lottery tickets to speeders and other traffic violators who received warnings and tickets on Christmas in a bid to spread holiday cheer, Florida Today reports.

On Jan. 15th, the state Senate Transportation Committee approved a bill that would allow the Florida Dept. of transportation to raise speed

limits 5 mph. Current maximums are 75 mph on limited-access highways , 65 mph on four-lane highways outside urban areas and 65 mph on other roads.

GEORGIA

Dekalb County prosecutors are dropping charges of theft against Kaveh Kamooneh of Decatur, who plugged his electric car into an outlet at Chamblee Middle School last month. He charged his Nissan Leaf for 20 minutes, drawing about a nickels worth of electricity. It resulted in a 15-hour jail stay.

ILLINOIS

About 900 signs went up along interstates between Jan. 2 to 17 increasing the speed limit to 70 mph. The signs were made with recycled material.

A new state law limits the use of free on-street parking by disabled to motorists who get statements from doctors for a yellow and gray placard affirming they use wheelchairs or cannot walk more than 20 feet. The city will give drivers a grace period. Fines of up to \$65 for each violation started Jan. 16th.

State Sen. Ira Silverstein has introduced legislation that would make it illegal to smoke in a vehicle while a child is present. The measure, which carries a \$100 fine, is aimed at protecting children from secondhand smoke.

IDAHO

Twin Falls City Council members are considering nearly \$2 million in improvements to build roads, trails, and other amenities at the site of Evel Knevil's unsuccessful Snake River Canyon jump. A stuntman, Ed Beckley, is planning to jump the canyon in 2014 after being awarded a lease by the state.

INDIANA

A new hiking trail along the Wabash River is on hold while officials conduct tests to determine if parts of the pathway might be tainted with contaminants.

IOWA

Not too smart! Police in Iowa City said a local man who led officers on a slow speed chase refused to exit his vehicle until after he finished smoking pot. Ben Laschke refused to pull over after officers attempted to stop his vehicle for a traffic violation, police say. (Guess he won't get the driver of the year award for 2013).

MAINE

State troopers have begun enforcing a law that requires drivers to slow down and move over for parked cruisers and other emergency vehicles. The renewed enforcement of the 2007 law follows six incidents since December in which drivers hit state police cruisers.

MARYLAND

Under a new law, undocumented immigrants can obtain a second-tier driver's license if they meet certain requirements, the Washington Post reports. The licenses will not be recognized by federal agencies.

The cost of camping at Catoctin Mountain Park is rising from \$20 to \$25 as the park joins the ReserveAmerica reservation system.

Legislation is pending in the Maryland House of Delegates to require the issuance of only a single license plate for historical vehicles and

street rods. State law defines historical vehicles as a passenger vehicle at least 20 years old and has not been substantially altered from the manufactures original design. A street rod is a motor vehicle that is 25 years old or older and has been substantially altered from the manufacturer's original design. The measure is supported by SEMA.

Prince George County police are giving refunds for nearly 1,500 \$40 tickets issued by a speed camera at St. Ignatius Loyola School in November 2012 after learning that the camera's location had not been advertised in a local newspaper, as state law requires.

MICHIGAN

A new \$11-a-car fee to visit Belle Isle will begin on Feb. 10. The state is taking over the city-owned park, which is expected to save the city \$4 million a year.

The state has launched a service so drivers can be reminded with text message or e-mail to renew their expiring license plate tag.

NEBRASKA

WARNING !!! Truckers who spill manure will be fined a minimum of \$250 if a bill advanced by the state Legislature becomes law.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Legislation to expand the range of model-year vehicles eligible to use original year-of-manufacture license plates on antique vehicles has been introduced. Currently, only 60's and earlier model-year antique vehicles are eligible to use these plates. Under the proposed law, eligibility would be expanded to include all 75's and earlier model years. The bill is supported by SEMA. In New Hampshire, an antique motor vehicle or motorcycle is "any motor vehicle more than 25-years old and is maintained for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades and other functions of public interest.

NEW JERSEY

Drivers can be fined \$25 to \$75 for failure to remove accumulated ice and \$200 to \$1,000 if the ice flies off and causes injury or property damages.

The union that represents the state's toll collectors is raising funds to fight a proposal to privatize toll collection and increase automation on the Turnpike and Golden State Parkway. The Turnpike Authority said last year it would seek proposals to privatize E-Pass and cash toll collections in 2016.

NEW MEXICO

A state lawmaker has proposed taking away the driver's licenses of New Mexico students who habitually play hooky from school. The Albuquerque Journal reports that Sen. Craig Brandt wants to give schools authorities the ability to work with the Motor Vehicle Dept.

The Farmington Daily Times reports that Gallup opened a Tesla Motors supercharger station in late December and is scheduled to open another one in the next month or so. The two stations are part of Tesla Motor's mission to expand its supercharger stations nationally.

OHIO

The city of Cleveland is planning to add more than 70 miles of dedicated bike lanes, trails and pavement markings by the end of 2017.

OKLAHOMA

The city of Tulsa offered amnesty to drivers who have racked up unpaid parking tickets. Drivers could pay their tickets without the extra late fees or court costs during the grace period which was Jan. 1 to Feb. 7. The city estimates that it has nearly 19,000 unpaid parking tickets on file.

OREGON

The city of Roseburg wants to add bicycle lanes, replace parallel parking with back-in angle parking and convert two-way streets into one-way streets. Officials say the changes will make it easier to park downtown.

PENNSYLVANIA

Drivers can be fined \$200 to \$1,000 if snow or ice flies from their vehicle and strikes another vehicle or a pedestrian, causing death or serious bodily injury.

All good things come to an end! For years, savvy motorists parking in downtown Scranton knew a secret. Parking enforcement officers weren't on the beat before 8:30 a.m. or after 4:30 p.m. The Times-Tribune reports that now it is nearly impossible to calculate how much money the city lost in parking meter fees and fines as a result.

RHODE ISLAND

Providence is moving ahead with plans to introduce a bike share program linking downtown with Brown University, Federal Hill and other locations. Alta Bicycle Share, of Portland, Oregon submitted the winning proposal to manage the program over two other companies.

The new Conant Street Bridge opened in the first week of January. The \$4.3 million bridge carries traffic on Conant Street over railroad tracks between Mineral Springs Avenue and Barton and Weeden Street.

TENNESSEE

A \$250,000 project to widen a bridge and improve roads near the site of the annual Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival is worrisome to some residents who fear an increase in traffic to the event. This year's event is scheduled for June 12-15.

TEXAS

The Texas DMV has clarified that vehicles altered from original steel bodies will not be required to carry a title with a “replica” brand. Previously, all street rods and custom vehicles would have been required to carry a replica title.

A man in Frisco was arrested for holding a sign warning drivers about police targeting speeders. Ron Martin entered a plea of not guilty to a misdemeanor charge of violating a sign ordinance.

UTAH

Got a flat on your bike? The city of Ogden has ordered six bike-repair stations with tools to fix flats and make other simple repairs and adjustments. It plans to put the tool racks in place by early spring throughout the city.

VERMONT

The state DMV is going to begin on Jan. 2nd, issuing a new kind of driver’s license and non-driver ID cards. Vermonters will be able to obtain REAL-ID compliant identification in person at all DMV offices.

VIRGINIA

Legislation that would allow state antique vehicle hobbyists to install and use after-market exhaust systems has been introduced. The bill is supported by SEMA.

WASHINGTON

The law allows police to stop drivers for traveling with accumulated ice on their vehicles, but the offense does not carry a fine.

A measure proposed in the State Legislature would make it a traffic infraction to smoke in a vehicle with minors present. The fine would be \$125 and violations afterward would be \$250.

WEST VIRGINIA

A bill has been introduced in the State Legislature to provide owners of antique vehicles with an exemption from taxation and fees. The vehicle must be at least 25 years old, is owned solely as a collector's item. Under the bill, certificates or title and other required permits would also be granted free of charge. SEMA is supporting the bill.

A bill was reintroduced to allow vehicle hobbyists to install and use aftermarket modified exhausts that meet the 95-decibel limit.

WISCONSIN

Fox Valley authorities will cut back on patrol shifts designed to nab drunken drivers because it's getting harder to find officers to fill the late night shifts.

WHAT'S UP HERE AND THERE

A judge has ruled that a man in Casper, Wyoming is entitled to keep hundreds of cars on his property provided that they're at least 25 years old. The Casper-Star Tribune reports that Natrona County resident Dana Jones owns about 600 cars on two properties.

Wyoming's license plate was selected the most attractive in a survey of 2,000 Americans on the CarInsurance web site. The plate displays a Teton backdrop and a bucking horse and rider in the center. The same survey selected Delaware's plate as the least attractive plate in the country.(The website is CarInsurance.com).

On March 9, 1964, Ford rolled a new vehicle called Mustang off of the assembly line in Dearborn. It debuted the following month at the New York Worlds Fair with a suggested retail of \$2,368. Ford forecasted fewer than 100,000 sales in the first year, but by the 18-month mark, it had manufactured 1 million Mustangs.

Snow plows on northern Nevada roads will be using new technology to relay up-to-the-minute road conditions. More than 20 state Dept. of Transportation snowplows and maintenance trucks are outfitted with sensors to provide a clearer picture of how roads are faring as winter storms roll in.

An article by Larry Copeland states that ATV crash deaths on public roadways is rising even tho the ATV's are prohibited from most public roads. About 340 people riding ATVs are killed every year. Two-thirds of all fatal ATV crashes occur on public or private roads.

HIS Automotive (a consulting group) states that according to a study, the number of self-driving cars on the world's roads , including those that require some driver input, will balloon from 230,000 in 2025 to 11.8 million in 2050. As sales pick up, there could be a cumulative 54 million self-driving cars in use around the world in 2035. Self-driving cars will come at a steep price, adding \$7,000 to \$10,000 to a car's sticker price in 2025, the study shows. The price premium should steadily drop to \$5,000 in 2030 and about \$3,000 in 2035.

According to an article by Chris Woodyard of USA Today, plug-in electric cars may be the cutting-edge technology, but an analysis suggests that must will depreciate more dramatically over five years than their conventional counterparts.

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