

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

# OLDCARSANDNEWLAWS

## PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE



**By Larry Becker**

*The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will now allow rear license plates to be mounted at an angle of up to 30 degrees beyond vertical rather than the current 15 degree angle. The change is intended to provide additional manufacturer design flexibility and match current European regulations.*

*U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx has announced that the National Highway Safety Administration will spend the next six months developing guidelines for automakers on what's expected of self-driving prototype cars and what sort of safety tests should be used.*

*The fastest-growing demographic among a record-high 214.3 million licensed drivers in the US, is age 85 and older according to the U.S. Dept. of Transportation.*

*The self-driving car, the cutting-edge creation that's that supposed to lead to a world without accidents, is achieving the exact opposite right now. The vehicles have racked up a crash rate that is double of that with human drivers. The glitch! Self-driving cars obey the law all the time, without exception. Good luck trying to merge onto a jam packed highway with traffic flying along well above the speed limit. Self-driving cars are basically designed to stick to the speed limit, but most cars with human drivers go zipping past the self-driving vehicles. Last year, in a demo to members of Congress, the vehicles performed perfectly except when it had to merge onto I-395 south and swing across 3 lanes of traffic in 150 yards to head toward the Pentagon. The car's cameras and laser sensors detected traffic in a 360-degree view but didn't know how to trust that drivers would make room in the ceaseless flow, so the human minder had to take control*

*to complete the maneuver. Engineers are working to find solutions to correct the problem.*

*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.*

## **ALABAMA**

*A U.S. District Court has ruled against the environmental group Black Warrior, who had sought to challenge the permitting process associated with the Northern Beltline, a 52-mile highway project that would connect Interstate 459 in Bessemer with Interstate 59 in Jefferson County.*

## **CALIFORNIA**

*The state Dept. of Transportation is recruiting motorists to test ways of how far they drive to study the feasibility of replacing the gas tax with mileage fees. . 5,000 volunteers are needed for the Road Charge pilot program. The Gov. has proposed new vehicle fees in his new budget.*

*Engineers say they have solved the problems of leaks causing rust in the supports of the the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. They say they are using industrial caulk which seals the area around the bolts.*

*New state laws effective Jan. 1 – AB 40 ensures that pedestrians and cyclists won't have to pay tolls on any Bay Area bridges like the Golden Gate. Even though no tolls exist, lawmakers are responding to proposals to institute a Golden Gate bridge fee. AB 1422 requires companies like Uber and Lyft to give DMV access to drivers records by participating in the agency's pull notice program. SB 491 closes a loophole in the law regarding the use of headphones and earplugs. The law did not mention "earbuds", but now the legislature has added earbuds to the list of banned items. AB 8 creates a special "yellow alert" notification of hit & run cases where a driver has been injured. Law enforcement will now put information about a hit-and-run driver on freeway message boards, asking other drivers to be alert for the vehicle and call in if they see it. AB 1096 says that you have to be at least 16 years old and wear a helmet while riding electric bicycles. These bikes, newly designated as "Class 3" electric bikes, have motors that can boost your pedaling speed up to 28 mph. The less-powerful electric bicycles provide a motorized boost that stops when the vehicles hits 20 mph.*

*AB 643 – Silver Alerts - notification system is basically a public announcement of when a person age 65 or older has gone missing, possibly because the person is suffering*

*dementia or is developmentally disabled. This law allows the alert to be posted on freeway message boards if the missing person may be in a vehicle and if police have a good description of the vehicle. SB 61 extends the existing Ignition Interlock Device pilot program until July 1, 2017 for Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Tulare counties. It was originally set to expire January 1, 2016. AB 265 requires “buy-here-pay-here” dealers to make certain disclosures and notices to a vehicle buyer when a vehicle’s sold with tracking and starter interrupt technology installed. The law also requires advance warning be given to the purchaser prior to the engagement of the starter interrupt technology if the buyer fails to make timely vehicle payments.*

*There is a proposal in the state Senate to reduce the traffic fine for turning on a red light without stopping. The proposal would reduce the fine from \$500 to about \$250 or \$300.*

*CALTRANS has announced a multi-million dollar project to end a major bottleneck on the Capitol City Freeway that goes through the city and connects with I-80, but the problem is there is no funding for the project and may take up to 10 years to secure funds.*

## **DELAWARE**

*Construction on a bridge across Christina River, Wilmington area, will begin by late 2016, connecting Riverfront to south Wilmington. The project is estimated at \$35 million and will feature two vehicle lanes and bicycle and pedestrian pathways.*

## **HAWAII**

*An effort to add more bike lanes in Honolulu has some concerned about the effect on parking spaces for drivers.*

## **IOWA**

*Three years after it opened, the Transportation Museum in Grinnell has closed, lost its building to foreclosure, and left the city on the hook to repay more than \$4 million in federal aid for the project.*

## **KANSAS**

*State lawmakers are being asked to approve a \$7.50 increase in vehicle title fees to pay for 75 additional Kansas Highway Patrol troopers. Vehicle titles have cost \$10 since 2003*

## **KENTUCKY**

*A program that allows local parking ticket recipients to cover their fines with canned goods for the hungry has collected 5-tons of food during the holidays.*

## **MINNESOTA**

*The State Court of Appeals says a state law making it a crime for someone arrested for DUI to refuse a urine test without a warrant is unconstitutional.*

## **MISSOURI**

*Gov. Nixon says he believes small increases in fuel taxes, is the best way to raise money for roads and bridges. He favors a bill by State Senator Libla to raise the gasoline tax by 1.5 cents per gallon and diesel fuel by 3.5 cents per gallon.*

*Legislation has been introduced to exempt vehicles at least 10 years old from the state and local sales tax on the titling of motor vehicles. The measure does not apply to motor vehicles with a sales price of more than \$15,000.*

*Legislation has been introduced to allow a camping or fifth-wheel trailer more than 25 years old or older to be permanently registered for a \$25 fee. The bill also allows that possessing a year of manufacture license plate more than 25 years old, may use these plates as a historic trailer plate if the configuration of letters and numbers have not been issued to someone else. Under the law, the owner of the historic trailer must keep the certificate of registration in the trailer at all times.*

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

*Lawmakers have defeated a bill that would impose a highway usage fee on hybrid and electric vehicles to pay what has been lost in the fuel tax. About \$50 million a year would have been raised by the bill.*

*The state Supreme Court has upheld the state's Dealer's Bill of Rights, a law that gives auto dealers some of the strongest protections in the country when dealing with manufacturer s, including a "buy local" provision and transparency for makers, according to the New Hampshire Union Leader newspaper.*

#### **NEW JERSEY**

*Legislation has been reintroduced in the New Jersey State Senate to require the issuance of only a single license plate for motor vehicles. The bill would allow owners who were issued two license plates prior to the enactment and effective date of the bill to return one of the plates to the DMV.*

#### **NEVADA**

*State auditors say Las Vegas area cabs are overcharging customers by as much as \$47 million a year.*

#### **OREGON**

*The speed limit will increase from 65 mph to 70 mph on Interstate 84 between The Dalles and the Idaho border starting March 1<sup>st</sup>. Speed limits will also go up on other highways in central and eastern Oregon, including portions of U.S. 20. U.S. 95 and state Route 78.*

#### **NEBRASKA**

*The Lincoln city traffic engineer has told business leaders that there will be fewer traffic lights and better timing on the remaining lights. The city will also continue to build roundabouts, which could replace traffic lights.*

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

*A Bad Day! The Raleigh-Durham International airport had a technology foul-up that penned 124 drivers at the airport parking exits for a half an hour.*

#### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

*Inmates at the state penitentiary have been cranking out tens of thousands of 2016 license plates each day in preparation for the new design that became available Jan. 1.*

*The new design once again features Mount Rushmore, but the presidential faces are angled differently and tinted shades of beige and brown.*

*People interested in reserving a campsite at a South Dakota state park by phone will now have to pay a \$2 fee. Also, a seven-day vehicle pass for Custer State Park now costs \$20, up from \$15 last year.*

*Badlands National Park has begun a series of public meetings about a possible entrance fee increase. A proposal that would go into effect in 2017 would raise the per-person walk rate to \$12 from \$7, double the motorcycle rate to \$25 from \$15 and bump up the annual pass to \$50 from \$30.*

## **TEXAS**

*Federal officials have approved plans to replace the Harbor Bridge in the Corpus Christi area. The present steel arch span opened in 1959, replacing a drawbridge that had previously carried U.S. 81 over the harbor.*

*Pennington County voters rejected a proposed “wheel tax” to fund road and bridge repairs. Sixty per cent of the voters rejected the proposal.*

## **UTAH**

*A local women, who wore a colander for her driver’s license photo will serve house arrest for a DUI charge. The Spectrum reports that Jessica Steinhauser, 42, pleaded no contest in exchange for avoiding jail time.*

*The state Dept. of Transportation has launched a system that allows people to use their smart-phones to track the location of snowplows in their area. The automated Vehicle Locator system provides locations for more than 500 snowplows on the state highways and freeways. It is available through the UDOT website or by using the UDOT Traffic smart-phone app. It does not give information about city and county snowplows on local roads.*

## **WASHINGTON**

*A bill has been reintroduced to require the DMV to issue a single license plate for vehicles. The bill is similar to a New Jerseys bill.*

# WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

*On January 21<sup>st</sup>, GM announced that it would create a new ride-sharing service called Maven. The unit has been given 40 employees and will operate a test project in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Additional city-based programs will launch in major U.S. metropolitan areas later this year.*

*The following cars which are being discontinued: Cadillac SRX, Honda Accord Crossover, Hyundai Equus, Infiniti Q40, Jaguar XK, Jeep Compass, Jeep Patriot, Mazda 5, Mini Roadster, Mini Coupe, Mitsubishi Lancer EVO, Nissan Xterra, Scion XB, Scion IQ, Toyota Venza and the Volkswagen EOS.*

*A survey by Honda of 1,516 parents with one or more children ages 5 to 10 spends about 208 hours a year in the car shuttling the kids.*

*Most states have seat belt laws applying to teen drivers, but 1 in 5 teens admit to not wearing one. Maine, Nebraska, New Mexico and South Dakota apply to only those 18 and older, as of December 2015.*

*The new four-door EV Chevy Volt goes into product on the end of 2016 and is designed specifically with ride-sharing in mind, executives say, a fact that suggests G.M. may have been mulling in its recent \$500 million infusion into San Francisco based ride-sharing service Lyft for some time.*

*A report released by Fox news says that only 25% of teenagers 16 years old have applied for drivers licenses. In 1980, it was 60% plus. Most teenagers are content to have their relatives or friends to drive them around and have no interest in applying for a driver's license.*

