

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

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

ALABAMA

A company is fast approaching a deadline to earn a \$15 million bonus for a bridge project ahead of schedule in Birmingham.

After months of headaches for daily commuters, long-haul drivers and downtown businesses ended January 17th with the reopening of I59/20 through Birmingham.

ALASKA

Transportation officials have launched an updated monitoring system providing drivers with real-time road and traffic conditions throughout the state.

CALIFORNIA

Commute times have increased in all areas of the state. In the Los Angeles area, an extra 30 minutes is required. This is due to heavy traffic congestion in all parts of the state.

DELAWARE

A record number of vehicles crossed the Delaware Memorial Bridge from New Jersey into Delaware last year.

GEORGIA

Proposed budget cuts could lead to less state troopers on state roads and many other program cuts.

HAWAII

Authorities will start towing vehicles operated by people on Maui, who are arrested for driving under the influence also known as DUI.

IDAHO

One of the last. The screen of the 65 year-old Sunset Auto Vue drive-in theater was destroyed by fire in the second week of January. The owner says he plans to rebuild if he can find someone who can do the specialized work.

ILLINOIS

Gov. Pritzker has signed a law that eliminates driver's license suspensions for most non-moving violations.

State officials say six million dollars in city vehicle debt has been forgiven in three months from a program started by Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

The state will stop collecting fines against drivers who are ticketed after cameras catch them violating red lights as of Jan. 6th.

INDIANA

Indiana University has started a year-long test of using license plate reading cameras for parking regulation enforcement.

IOWA

The names of car owners ticketed by automated speed cameras are not a public record, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled on January 3rd. The court was considering a lawsuit by a former Ottumwa police sergeant who was ticketed, while driving a city-owned car in May 2016 by the city's speed cameras.

KANSAS

On January 15th, the state began issuing new personalized license plates that emphasize Kansas's growing wind energy use.

KENTUCKY

Effective Jan. 1, motorists with some special license plates will be required to pay an additional charitable donation to the organization represented on the plate.

MICHIGAN

A company in Ann Arbor that makes self-driving food delivery vehicles began testing them in the city in the last week of December.

MASSACHUSETTS

The state is expanding its electric vehicle rebate program through January 31, 2021. A federal program that gave rebates or tax incentives to electric vehicle purchasers in the U.S. ended in 2019.

MICHIGAN

Michigan State Police have suspended the contract with a company that issues breath-alcohol testing devices amid concerns that results could be flawed.

MISSISSIPPI

Wait at state driver's license stations have tripled over the past two years according to a new report.

MONTANA

Glacier Guide and Montana Rafting Co. have started taking reservations for electric bike rentals and tours on Going-to-the-Sun Road.

NEBRASKA

State roads saw a 9% rise in fatal crashes in 2019, state officials say the failure to buckle up was major factor.

NEW JERSEY

A bill would expand the state's network of charging stations for electric vehicles and give motorists a sizeable rebate is gaining support in the state.

A woman scorned!! A woman in Bayonne got angry about long lines at a DMV office, smashed computer equipment, assaulted two staffers and kicked police as they tried to arrest her.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

As of January 1, driver license applicants may place an X as their gender ID.

NORTH CAROLINA

The popular Southport-Fort Fisher ferry route has closed for three months to allow crews to perform repairs.

NORTH DAKOTA

Ten communities in the state will use part of a settlement with VW to build electric vehicle charging stations.

OHIO

The state is expanding an online check-in program aimed at reducing the time people spend waiting in line at state DMV offices.

The state is conducting a yearlong pilot program of testing of self-driving shuttles starting in mid-January. One of the first test areas will be in a residential area of Columbus.

PENNSYLVANIA

A divided state House has voted to ban the use of handheld phones for all drivers to make calls, although police will not be allowed to stop motorists for that reason alone.

RHODE ISLAND

The state will receive an extra \$50 million in federal funds for bridge improvements and repair projects.

TENNESSEE

The Cades Cove has been closed to all vehicles until repairs to a main access road tunnel are finished, perhaps in March.

UTAH

Federal officials are considering whether to allow a highway to be built through protected Mojave Desert tortoise habitat in Southern Utah, a plan that has drawn criticism from conservationists. As of January 9th, more than 16,000 public comments were submitted on the proposal.

The state is about to start requiring nonresidents to get a new type of permit for using an off-highway vehicle in state parks or on public lands.

Personalized license plates that spark multiple complaints will get extra scrutiny amid questions about how a plate with the phrase "DEPORTM" , could be on the road despite strict state rules and previous objections.

VIRGINIA

Gov. Northam is promising sweeping changes to state law penalties for people caught stealing low-dollar items and reducing the number state residents who had driver licenses suspended.

VERMONT

The state is looking to award \$2 million to help construct fast vehicle charging stations along highway corridors.

WASHINGTON

The state Supreme Court has unanimously ruled that drivers must signal every time they change lanes or make turns on state roads.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Big Price increases! The new-year will bring new charges for owners of electric vehicles in eight states with increased registration fees or new added special taxes. Electric vehicle owners in Hawaii will see an increase of \$50, Kansas - \$100, Ohio and Alabama - \$200 and California will increase their fees in July on new electric vehicles. Illinois had offered a 2-year license for \$35, but now will be \$98 plus \$100. The increases are due to lost revenue on fuel taxes. Alabama says they will use 80% of the new income on road and bridge improvements. Oregon, Utah and several other states are considering raising registration fees on electric vehicles also. Fees vary as to electric vehicles and plug-in types. Most states will have some type of increased fees on all types of vehicles in 2020.

Multi systems that were designed, to make driving safer and easier are placing drivers in danger, according to a new study. Adaptive cruise control and lane keeping-assist technology lull drivers into letting their guard down which puts them at greater risk of crashing, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found. When used correctly, the technology can make people safe, but many drivers place too much trust in the systems.

An electric car-sharing service in Indianapolis that debuted in 2015 is closing its network of recharging cars due to lack of use by local residents and will close May 31.

The 1968 Ford Mustang GT made famous by the movie, Bullitt, was sold to an anonymous buyer for \$3.4 million, after being hidden in a family's garage for 40 years.

Due to increased oil production, gas prices will decline in 2020 to an average price of \$2.60 per gallon, according to GasBuddy. However, western states and Hawaii may not see gas below \$3 per gallon. Several areas of California, especially the southern areas, gas is \$3.50 plus per gallon.

GM has several types of vehicles that are used by the military in various areas such as Iraq. They have developed vehicles that could lower the casualty count from IEDS. They have supplied electric and autonomous vehicles in several areas and plan to develop more.

New York Assemblyman Brian Kolb tweeted, “There is no excuse for driving impaired during the holiday season”. Five days later, he was arrested, for DUI after a crash on New Year’s Eve.

Tesla’s Shanghai factory delivered its first cars to a customer in the first week of January and CEO Elon Musk said the electric car company plans to set up a design in China to create a model for worldwide sales. The Chinese-made Model-3 starts at 299,050 yuan (\$42,680).

An investment broker says the best stock investment is in companies that produce the computer chips, parts that enable electrification metals like lithium for longer-lasting batteries or other electric vehicle parts.

GM is considering bringing back the Hummer name on two new vehicles, a pickup and an SUV, both would be electric vehicles. Not much information is available at this time. It seems like every company has plans for various types of electric vehicles.

Automakers in every country are concerned about possible hacking and working on ways to prevent it. Computer hackers on the other side of the world could – while you are driving –crash your navigation system, cut your brakes, disrupt your steering ability or remotely take control of your vehicle. Automakers aggressively work to monitor technology protection in vehicles to the global internet to provide navigation assistance and much more. (Information from article by Phoebe Wall Howard of the Detroit Free Press.)

In Concord Ca, GoMentum Station is a sprawling facility with more than 20 miles of paved roads (complete with intersections, tunnels, and even train tracts. Leading technology companies bring autonomous vehicles, electric cars, and other mobility innovations to test them under realistic but controlled conditions before they hit the public roads).

Daimler company truck division will begin building electric trucks and the first model will be a garbage truck. The vehicles will be built using the new all-electric Mercedes Benz system.

Transportation options projected for 2030 include shooting across the country in a levitating pod or hovering above traffic in a drone. Daily commute times will be cut in half, when you don’t own or operate a car to get to your destination. Transportation planners are working ways to move people through multiple modes of connected travel, such as air taxis, hyperloops, e-scooters and self-driving cars are just a few items developers are working on. As different solutions are tested, perfected, adjusted and evaluated, there will be less of a dependence on automobiles. (This information from an article by Dalvin Brown of USA Today, who is definitely not a car guy.)

Two air bag glitches have forced Toyota and Honda to recall more than 6 million vehicles worldwide and both problems present different dangers to motorists. The problem is that the airbags may not inflate in a crash.

Cruse, the self-driving division of GM, unveiled the Origin, a self-driving electric- powered ride-sharing vehicle in the third week of January. The six-passenger vehicle looks like a small bus, has

no steering wheel or pedals, and offers a cavernous area where two rows of three passengers face each other. GM has not announced any release date for the vehicle.

LARRY BECKER

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