

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, INC.

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS
PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

by Larry Becker



The U.S. House Science Committee approved a SEMA-sponsored bill that directs the National Academy of Science to conduct a scientific assessment of how gasoline blended with 15% to 20% ethanol (E-15 and E-20) may impact gasoline powered engines, vehicles and related equipment. The analysis would consider a variety of issues, including tailpipe and evaporative emissions, impact on OBD systems, materials compatibility and fuel efficiency. The House bill would prevent the U.S. EPA from introducing E-15 into the marketplace until the report has been submitted to the House Science Committee. The National Academy of Science would have 18 months to conduct its analysis.

Washington is one of the states that have enacted or is considering enacting a special fee for electric vehicles. A special registration fee is added when the vehicle is registered and also added at renewal. The fee is to make up for lost revenue from gasoline taxes. The states feel that the electric vehicles use the roads and should compensate the states for the lost revenue.

The National Park Service is banning the sale of plastic water bottles within the Grand Canyon National Park, more than a year after the move was announced and then put on hold after Coca Cola, which bottles the water under Dasani brand, raised concerns about the plan. The new restrictions will take effect within 30

days and follows the example of Utah's Zion National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

The federal Transportation Dept. has ramped up its efforts to prevent distracted driving by proposing its first ever guide lines aimed to simplify or disabling communications and informational functions when the car is moving. The voluntary guidelines for visual and manual operations of built-in devices specifically call for disabling text messaging, internet browsing, social media browsing, navigation destination entry and phone dialing unless the vehicle is stopped and the driver puts it in park.

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

ALABAMA

On Feb. 16, the State Senate passed a bill that would require motorists to move over for stopped utility vehicles. Failure to comply would result in a \$25 fine for the first violation , \$50 for the second and \$100 for the third.

ALASKA

Emission testing in Anchorage will be ending on March 1st. In January, the EPA approved ending the program, agreeing that it was no longer needed to improve air quality in Alaska's largest city.

ARIZONA

The Arizona Dept. of Transportation said it's replacing highway signs with brighter and bigger ones that engineers say are easier to understand at freeway speeds. The new signs will be phased in as new roadways are constructed, when highway undergo major reconstruction, or as existing signs wear out.

CALIFORNIA

How a \$35 fine costs you \$236 in Sacramento County. If you run a stop sign, that is vehicle code section 22450 and the base fine is \$35. When you go to pay the fine, there is an \$80 state penalty. Much of the \$80 goes to the state's trail court construction fund. Ten dollars of it goes to the local county's general fund, to be used any way any way the county wishes. Some of it gets put into the county courthouse construction fund. Seven of those dollars goes to the county's jail construction fund. A few dollars goes to the county fingerprint fund, and \$7 goes to an account that reimburses doctors and hospitals for unpaid emergency care for crash victims and others. Now, the other charges, \$7 goes into the state general fund via what is called the state criminal

surcharge. There is a \$10 charge to reimburse the county court for the cost of searching the DMV database to see if you have prior convictions. There is an \$8 charge you pay into a state construction fund called the Immediate and Critical Needs account. There is a \$4 fee for the Emergency Air medical Transportation Act. Then, there is a \$40 fee for what use to be the local court security fee (X-ray machines at the doors), but it has been expanded to cover court operations costs. There is a \$16 charge that goes into the state's DNA testing program. There is also a \$1 fee that funds the county's night courts. You will also pay a \$35 "criminal conviction assessment" fee that also helps pay for state court construction. These fees are for Sacramento County only and county fees may be higher in other California counties.

Legislator Ken Jeffries plans on introducing the following legislation soon:

Class Car Exemption Program Reform – Modify the existing Classic Car program run through the DMV. The bill would require that if more than the authorized 500 classic car exemptions are filled in a given year, the remaining applicants will be put on a waiting for the next year and be approved in the order they are received. Also prohibit an applicant from having more than one application on the list at a time.

State transportation officials are proposing to abandon a winding, mountainous highway because it costs too much to maintain. Caltrans is hoping the U.S. Forest or Los Angeles County will take over Highway 39, which runs 27 miles from Asuza into the San Gabriel Mountains, but neither agency wants it. The state spends \$1.5 million annually maintaining it.

While some courts have thrown out red-light camera cases based on arguments of motorists that they were being convicted on hearsay testimony, the 2nd District Court of Appeals has provided legal heft for that contention with a published decision involving a motorist in Beverly Hills and Redflex Traffic Systems. The court agreed in a unanimous decision that motorist Annette Borzakian could not be fined \$425 because the police officer who signed the ticket, Mike Butkus, didn't actually see the incident but depended on the word of Redflex employees who maintained the system and reviewed pictures. State law requires "a witness" to testify as to the identity of the record and its mode of preparation in every instance" and since Butkus was not involved in verifying the integrity of the system, the photographic evidence was inadmissible. So now any driver who receives a red-light camera ticket has a published appellate court decision to challenge its validity. The appellate decision also provides legal weight for a class-action lawsuit that's been filed against Redflex and the city of Victorville alleging that red-light cameras violate long-standing rule that an officer must witness a traffic infraction to issue a ticket.

AB 695 is back. The proposal from last year has been reintroduced. The bill would allow persons over the age of 21 to ride motorcycles without wearing a helmet.

A B 1539 is a proposal for a specialty license plate containing an anti-discrimination message to combat bullying that would raise money to assist tolerance programs in schools.

AB 1589 is a proposal for a specialty plate that would benefit the state's beleaguered state parks.

AB 610 is a proposed bill for specialty license plates that would help fund spay and neuter programs in the state. The bill was approved last year, but requires 7,500 advance license plate orders to launch plate production. The bill would lower the amount to 3,500 plates with a goal of 4,000 plates within one year.

The plates cost roughly \$50 to \$100 to order and there are eight specialty plates available.

COLORADO

A suburban Denver Sheriff plans to start sending political campaigns the tab when roads have to be closed, traffic directed and deputies put on overtime. Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson, a Republican, said he would send Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney a bill for \$5,000 to \$6,000 for "extraordinary" security costs at a rally on February 5th.

There is legislation in the state Legislature to extend the emissions inspection exemption to vehicles that have not reached their eight model year. Current law only exempts vehicles that are four model years old or newer. Colorado already exempts pre-76 collector cars, kits and street rods from emissions testing.

Highway officials are considering allowing motorists to use the shoulder on Interstate 70 to ease weekend ski traffic. Engineer Peter Kosinski said he was excited about "the pavement we have." But the concept would require additional research, an environmental inquiry and an estimated \$30 million to implement.

Lawmakers are considering banning red-light and speed cameras. The bill would prohibit cities and towns from using the traffic enforcement devices on streets or highways. Sen. Scott Renfroe says the cameras are more about getting revenue than improving safety. The Colorado Municipal League opposes the legislation saying it should be up to the local governments to decide

Questions are asked after the Colorado Dept. of Transportation began building a wildlife fence on I-25 near Fountain that will cost about \$1 million and be finished in June. The project includes cattle guards and ramps for animals to get across the highway. Critics say it is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

DELAWARE

The Dept. of Transportation will widen a 3.5 mile stretch of Wrangler Hill road where 131 accidents were reported during a three year period ending in September. Construction on the \$18 million project is set to start in 2015 or 2016.

D.C. WASHINGTON

The mayor has said he wants red and white as the uniform color of all city taxi cabs so they meld with the color of the DC Circulator and Metro buses, the Washington Post reported on Jan. 31, The Taxi Cab Commission would set the color after a hearing, but elected officials could play a key role in the decision.

Starting March 1st, drivers who park illegally (without a valid placard or license plate) at red-top parking meters for disabled people will be subject to ticketing and towing,

HAWAII

The Honolulu City Council's budget panel is considering a proposal to double the hourly meter rate around Kapiolani Regional Air Park and Aala Park. The proposal calls for raising the rate from 50 cents an hour to \$1. It would also impose the higher rate 24 hours a day, instead of daytime only. Parks and Recreation Deputy Al Tufono said the extra parking revenue would help maintain city parks.

SEMA model legislation that would allow vehicle hobbyists to install and use aftermarket modified exhaust systems that meet an objective noise limit has been introduced in the Hawaii State Legislature. Car owners would be issued a certificate of compliance if the exhaust system is no more than 95 decibels in a fair and predictable test. If enacted into law, the measure would provide motorists who drive vehicles legally equipped with modified exhaust systems the ability to prove that they comply with the law and would remedy the enforcement policy used by police officers in which exhaust noise citations are prosecuted solely based on the officer's subjective judgment.

ILLINOIS

Chicago Mayor Emanuel said a law signed by Gov. Pat Quinn will improve safety for students. The bill allows Chicago to use speed enforcement cameras to monitor drivers around the city's schools and parks. The camera's information will be used to send \$100 tickets if drivers go more than 5 mph over the limit.

IOWA

Mayor Bob Scott of Sioux City wants to lower the fines for people caught on camera speeding or running a red light. He says the city has become too dependent on revenue from the fines, making it more about money than safety. Scott will introduce an ordinance at the next council meeting that would reduce fines from \$185 to \$100.

MARYLAND

Legislation to increase the age requirement for vehicles eligible for registration as 'historic motor vehicles', has been introduced in the Maryland Legislature. Under the bill, the age requirement

would be raised from 20 years to at least 25 years old and would prohibit these cars from being used for “occasional transportation.” The measure would also require that an historic vehicle is insured by an historic vehicle, show vehicle or antique insurance policy. The legislation is being opposed by SEMA.

MAINE

As of March 1st, a new state law went into effect requiring motorcycle owners to place their inspection stickers on the upper left corner of their license plate. Previously, inspection stickers did not have to be displayed. The new rule will be phased in over the coming year.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Boston Port Authority wants to raise parking rates at Logan International Airport while lowering rates at satellite lots in order to ease traffic while raising \$10 million a year. The maximum daily charge at the terminal area lots would jump from \$24 to \$27. Daily rates would fall at Logan Express lots from \$11 to \$7.

The Longfellow Bridge that spans the Charles River from Boston to Cambridge is getting a \$300 million, three year makeover. The number of lanes into Cambridge will be reduced from two to one, while the bike lanes and sidewalks will be widened both ways. The trolley tracks will be largely unchanged.

MISSISSIPPI

After more than 3 years and \$8.6 million, a main corridor between downtown Vicksburg and Interstate 20 – formerly a bridge but now a road atop a tunnel, opened on Feb. 14th.

NEVADA

Police in Reno say that thieves are targeting Jeep doors, with eight report thefts in January alone. The thefts occur at night, and suspects are taking both metal and soft doors, then selling them online. Police say Jeep owners can buy locking devices for less than \$50. They also suggest that Jeep owners, who live in high crime areas, remove their doors.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

On Feb. 23rd, the Senate held hearings on a bill that would establish a special license plate with a New England Patriots design. The plates would cost \$40 with half the proceeds going to the state and half going to the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation.

The town of Hampton is in a dispute with the state Department of Transportation over who is responsible for maintaining the Ocean Boulevard sidewalks. The town transferred ownership of Hampton Beach and the street to the state in 1933. Transportation Commissioner Christopher Clement said the state doesn't maintain sidewalks.

NEW MEXICO

Dona Ana County officials are crafting a noise ordinance that could limit loud speakers, excessive dog barking, loud music late at night, and even extra noisy car mufflers. The sheriff has not backed the creation of a noise ordinance saying the dept. would need more deputies to address noise-related complaints. No information is available as to how to determine what extra-loud muffler noise is.

NEW YORK

Motorists who travel the Mid-Hudson, Newburghn, Kingston-Rhinecliff, Rip Van Winkle and Bear Mountain bridges had to pay more tolls as of Jan. 30th. The basic passenger car toll will rise from \$1 to \$1.25 for EZPass and \$1.50 for cash customers.

A bill has been introduced in the state Assembly that would exempt restoration and custom shops from the state's motor vehicle repair shop requirements. They would not be required to give written estimates to customers seeking restoration, rebuilding or customizing work on specialty motor vehicles or motor vehicles at least 25 years old.

The state Thruway Authority will ask the federal government for a \$2 billion loan to help pay for a new Tappan Zee Bridge between Westchester and Rockland Counties. The cost, projected at \$5.2 billion, could balloon to \$6billion. The bridge carries 138,000 vehicles a day.

NEW JERSEY

The town of Lawrence has processed 932 tickets (as of Feb. 9th) since a red-light camera was installed at the Route 1 and Bakers Basin-Franklin Corner intersection in Oct. Municipal Court Judge Kevin Nerwins told the City Council it has put a strain on the court system, which needs two new computers to handle the business.

NORTHCAROLINA

After a four month suspension, the DMV is issuing "Friends of the Smokies", special license plates with the familiar image of a black bear and green mountains. Last year, the General Assembly required that the plate be redesigned to ensure that the numbers could be read by the human eye and by cameras installed as part of new toll roads.

Vehicles will be allowed on about 12 miles of the beaches along Hatteras Island from November to March, through most of the fall and spring fishing season. The National Park Service set fees at \$50 a week or \$120 a year, part of an agreement to protect endangered turtles and rare shorebirds.

OHIO

Wet weather that delayed work is part of the reason that a bridge project near Interstate 90 is more than a month behind schedule. Crews are working on the supports needed for the roughly \$290 million span, which will be 12 stories high. The bridge is supposed to be ready for traffic before October 2013.

PENNSYLVANIA

The city of Pittsburg plans to have 3,000 LED street lamps installed by the end of February eventually have all 40,000 street lights in city business districts replaced. The city estimates that it will save from \$800,000 to \$1 million annually in energy costs if all 40,000 lights are replaced.

RHODE ISLAND

The Turnpike and Bridge Authority has voted to increase tolls on the Pell Bridge connecting Newport and Jamestown from 83 cents (yes, 83 cents) to \$1 dollar a trip as of July 1st unless a separate new toll proposed by the governor for the Sakonnet River Bridge is approved by state lawmakers.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The DMV plans to put new drivers into more traffic than they usually face in the typical road test on neighborhood streets. DMV executive director Kevin Shwedo said he expects the more realist road tests to start by this summer.

Drivers can buy religious license plates that feature three crosses and a sunrise, two and a half years after a federal judge declared a previous legislative effort for the "I believe" tags unconstitutional. The new tags are sponsored by a non-profit group as allowed under state law.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Traffic planners in Rapid City are looking into whether speed bumps could make traffic less rapid. The city's Engineering Department has suggested that speed bumps or raised crosswalks could slow down motorists on wide residential streets.

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Dept. of Transportation wants to reconfigure the state highway 66/interstate 40 interchange to alleviate congestion for travelers visiting the Great Smokey Mountains. The project could cost between \$10 million and \$13million. Officials expected federal approval in February or early March.

The Memphis Police Department is cracking down on outstanding parking tickets. City Clerk Thomas Long said that 194 vehicles were towed for unpaid tickets from Jan. 2nd to Feb. 8th,

resulting in more than \$33,500 paid tickets and fines. Officers are using a new scanner that lets them pick out cars with an excessive number of unpaid tickets.

A bill in the state Legislature would create a statutory definition of a “vintage travel trailer” and provide for a one-time registration fee has been approved by the state House of Representatives and move to the Senate for consideration. Under the bill, vintage travel trailers would also be eligible for a special group license plate and would be exempt from wheel cover, mudguard, flap or splash apron requirements. The measure provides for a \$40 one-time fee and would exempt vintage travel trailer owners from any future registration fees.

Engineers, government officials and scientists are gathering for an international conference on a future system of electric toads that could power vehicles wirelessly. The conference follows the award of a \$2.7 million federal grant to establish an electrified bus route on the University of Utah campus. The shuttle bus will draw a wireless boost from the charging pads embedded in concrete. Experts say this concept could revolutionize road travel.

VIRGINIA

Legislation that originally threatened to provide localities with the authority to raise from \$100 to \$500 the amount charged for an annual license tax for vehicles that do not display current license plates will be amended by the Virginia House Counties, Cities and Towns Committee. Working with Virginia hobby groups, SEMA successfully negotiated an amendment that would totally exempt all vehicles 25 years old or older from all other items in the license tax and limit the tax to \$100 for all other vehicles undergoing restoration or repair. Parts that are stored on private property for fewer than 60 days are exempt. Under current law, all vehicles, even those 25 years old and older, are subject to the license tax. Under the amended bill, the exemption for cars 25 years old and older represents a new benefit to those car owners.

Tazewell County and the Southwestern Regional Recreation Authority are hoping to break ground on a new trail system for all-terrain vehicles this year. The county must first secure agreements with the two landowners along the path of the proposed Spearhead Trail.

The Safety Service Patrol will begin monitoring sections of Interstate 95, 64 and 295 on March 5th. The patrol monitors highways for incidents, removes debris from roadways, assists State Police and local emergency responders, and helps stranded motorists.

WASHINGTON

The Quinault Indian tribe has closed all beaches to public access along its reservation on the coast. The beach extends along 30 miles of coastline between the Moclips River and Queets.

WEST VIRGINIA

There is proposed legislation in the State Legislature to provide owners of antique motor vehicles with a cap on property taxes paid on antique motor vehicles. The bill has been approved by the Roads and Transportation Committee and is being considered by the House finance Committee. West Virginia law defines an “antique motor vehicle” to mean any vehicle that is 25 years old and solely owned as a collector’s item.

The State Senate has approved a bill that would allow police to ticket drivers for texting or talking on their cellphones. On Feb. 5th, the bill was sent to the House of Delegates, which is considering its own measure to cut distracted driving. Violations would cost a \$50 fine.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Trasper.com, a community platform assessed online and via smartphone apps, has compiled a list of 10 cities that have the most speed traps. Starting with #1 New York City Metro are, #2 -Los Angeles, Ca, #3 -Houston, Texas, #4 -Las Vegas, Nevada, #5 -Washington, D.C., #6 -St Louis, Mo., #7 -Orlando, Florida, #8 =Chicago, Ill, #9 -Colorado Springs, Co, and #10 -Austin, Texas.

The new \$260 million House transportation bill released in early Feb., would uncouple the federal gasoline tax from anything other than highway construction and maintenance. At present, 2% of gasoline tax funding has been allocated to bike paths and pedestrian walkways. As it is currently drafted, the House Transportation bill does not provide guaranteed funding for non-road building transportation needs such as bike lanes, pedestrians walkways or allow communities to use the money for other transportation needs.

A great opportunity!! Do not miss it!!!!!!!

The Delaware State department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is seeking volunteers for a frog survey. Potential volunteers need to have a car, internet access and be willing to sit along the side of a road at night listening for frog calls. Three surveys are conducted from February to July each year.

Something that women have always known, but men refuse to admit. A recent study by a British company states that women are much better at parking cars than men are.

They are also better at finding parking places than men are. (You can't trust those British people)

Men beware - make sure you buy a nice expensive gift. Sandra Ann Valinote of Roam Mountain, Tennessee was arrested and charged with assault. She was accused of throwing a birthday cake and book at her husband because of a disappointing birthday gift. She was upset because she did not receive the boots that she wanted for her birthday.

New Hampshire state tourism officials have created a wedding planning web site that features 100's of venues and allow planners to search by indoor and outdoor facilities and reception places.

It you go to Pennsylvania, state officials do not want you to feed the elk. The state's wild elk population went extinct in the late 1800's and small numbers of western elk were reintroduced in the early 1900s. The herds have grown from roughly 65 in 1971 to about 800 today according to the State Game Commission.



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