

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHATS UP HERE AND THERE



by Larry Becker

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.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has issued a proposal that interstate truck and bus drivers switch to electronic logs rather than fill out paperwork when tracking hours of operation.

Traffic laws in foreign countries are different than ours and many cities limit vehicle traffic on certain days. London's \$16.50 per day Congestion Charge, affects vehicles operating from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays. If you forget you will pay a \$214.50 fine, reduced to \$107 if paid within 14 days, plus an administrative fee if your car rental handles the transaction. In Sao Paula, cars are assigned a day of rest to cut down on traffic. It is based on the license plate number. There is a similar law in Paris and several other foreign cities. Many car rental customers receive a bill for various traffic charges several months after they return home. Fighting a traffic ticket from afar is possible, but almost never practical.

GOOGLE GLASSES! A driver in San Diego was cited for wearing Google Glasses while driving, but a judge dismissed the citation.

ALABAMA

Legislation to allow the owner of a vintage vehicle to keep the permanent vintage tag, but pay regular license taxes and registration fees for the privilege of operating the vehicle for general transportation purposes died when the legislature adjourned for the year.

ARKANSAS

About two dozen highways in the state are set to receive a new pavement treatment that's aimed at reducing crashes during wet weather. High-friction surface treatment focuses on curves and other common sites of fatal crashes.

State highway officials have federal permission to label portions of western Arkansas interstate highway as I-49. The signs have started going up from Alma to Bella vista. The road is now labeled as Interstate 540.

ARIZONA

Legislation to exempt all vehicles manufactured in model year 74 and earlier was signed into law in 2011, but has been delayed as the EPA will review the plan before approving it. Another bill currently before the Arizona legislature would extend the exemption to vehicles 40 years old or older but the rolling exemption also requires EPA approval before it can go into effect.

Coconino County has approved a new ordinance that bans texting and making calls with cellphones and other devices while driving, through the ban has several exceptions.

CALIFORNIA

In February the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District voted to increase rates for Fast-Trak and Pay-by-Plate to \$6 and \$7 starting April 7th. The rates will then rise by twenty five cents in July 2015

and another twenty five cents every year until 2018. The rates for carpoolers and people with disabilities will increase by the same rate as Fast Trak.

Some of the most vulnerable and integral cable sections and rods on the new \$6.5 billion San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge has rust on them. Experts say that if corrosion worsens, it will lead to structural damage well ahead of the planned 150-year service life of the bridge. There are many other concerns about the bridge.

Senator Steinberg has abandoning his controversial effort to add a 15 cents per gallon tax in 2014, and increasing the tax yearly to 42 cents per gallon by 2030. He had planned to use the tax to fund the fledgling program to reduce greenhouse gases.

The state Lottery Commission has announced plans for a pilot program that would let motorists buy lottery tickets from the gas pump screen. They would have to swipe their ID to show that they are over 18. The program will be tested in the Los Angeles and Sacramento areas.

The California Air Resources Board is conducting random smog tests in various parts of California. They say the test is voluntary, but if you are flagged over by the CHP for the test, it would be difficult to reuse to do the test. CARB is using the roadside tests to check out a new smog test technique based on the vehicles "onboard diagnostic sensor" readings. CARB plans to launch the new smog system test later this year.

State air-quality officials are considering giving small truck operators more time to comply with new rules to clean up diesel emissions. The proposal would push back the date a few years for small fleets lightly used trucks and those in rural areas with cleaner air.

COLORADO

Legislation that originally repealed the six year limitation for applying a salvage brand to a motor vehicle whose cost of being repaired exceeded its value has been approved by the House and Senate and sent to the governor for his signature and enactment into law.

The state Senate has passed a statewide ban on red-light and speeding cameras and sent the bill to the House.

Denver International Airport visitors can now pay for reserved parking. Airport visitors can pay a \$4 reservation fee in advance to reserve a parking space in either of DIA's two parking garages. The reservation fee is paid at the time the reservation is made, and the normal garage parking fees of \$3 per hour or \$23 per day will be collected when the visitor leaves.

D.C. WASHINGTON

All 540,000 licensed drivers will have to get new licenses as the city will start issuing Real IDs that conform to stringent federal regulations, the Washington Post reports. Any driver's license issued before May 1st 2013 will need to be replaced by Oct. 1st to allow entry to certain federal buildings and by 2016 to board a domestic flight.

The National Park Service has announced that the Washington Monument will reopen to visitors on May 12th.

Visit the Capitol and spend your money! Metro's board of directors have approved a \$1.76 billion operating budget that raises subway fares an average of 3 percent July 1st, while bus riders will pay a flat \$1.75 fare whether paying by cash or Smart-Trip cards, the Washington Post reports. (July is one of the busiest tourist months).

Two city council members have introduced legislation that would let taxi drivers ignore the meters for "surge pricing," a practice used by mobile-dispatched car services, in which prices are adjusted in real time, the Washington Post reports.

DELEWARE

Legislation sponsored by SEMA to exempt reconstructed vehicles that are 25 years or older from emission testing has been sent to the Senate for a vote. The House has already passed the bill.

The Dept. of Transportation's program generated more than 39,000 red-light tickets and about \$4 million in fines in 2013. After expenses, the program brought in just under \$900,000.

FLORIDA

The Florida Legislature is considering a bill that could lead to a 75 mph speed limit on Interstate highways.

INDIANA

New parking meters in downtown Bloomington have brought in more than \$1 million in the first six months despite free holidays and a harsh winter that caused many of the meters to freeze up at times.

KANSAS

A smell of alcohol from inside a motor vehicle isn't enough to justify a warrantless search of the interior by law enforcement officers, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled in reversing the methamphetamine conviction of a Sedgwick County man. Legislation that would have provided counties with the authority to remove from private property motor vehicles deemed to be a "nuisance" died when the legislature adjourned for the year. The bill was opposed by SEMA.

LOUISIANA

The Dept. of Transportation and Development which is responsible for ensuring that the state's bridges are safe, isn't inspecting spans as often as required by federal guidelines, according an audit released April 7th.

MASSACHUSETTS

The state Transportation Dept. is making \$40 million available to fix potholes in roads ravaged by the harsh winter.

MICHIGAN

The state's 680,000 military veterans can get a special designation on their driver's licenses, which will allow them to take advantage of discounts at stores and hotels without having to carry discharge papers.

A ferry company that serves Mackinac has said the start of the service this year will be affected by ice. The company is waiting to see how ice-braking work goes before posting a schedule. The Navy has sent two icebreakers to Marquette Upper Harbor to help open the area for shipping season.

MINNESOTA

Legislation to establish a pilot program administered by the Dept. of Transportation to impose a vehicle mileage user fee has been introduced. Under the bill, the Dept. must report to the Legislature its design options and recommendations for a permanent user fee that would be implemented in the next term. The bill is opposed by SEMA.

A bill to provide for a program that will allow classic status to be determined from naturally recognized standards and guides has been approved by the state House Transportation Committee and will be sent to the House floor for a vote.

MISSISSIPPI

Town officials in New Albany and Oxford want to name the state highway between the two cities, the William Faulkner Scenic Byway. Highway 30 joins New Albany, the city of the Nobel Prize winning author's birth, with Oxford, where he spent most of his life.

MISSOURI

A project to link the Loop Retail District in St Louis, with nearby Forest Park has won a \$25 million grant from the federal government, which will cover more than half the cost of the project.

NEBRASKA

Gov. Dave Heineman has signed into law a bill to exempt purchases made by historic automobile museums from sales and use tax.

Crews began work on March 24th on U.S. Route 6 west of Lincoln. The \$1.9 million project includes asphalt overlays, culverts and new shoulders.

NEVADA

The date for Hot Augusts Nights in Reno for 2014 is July 29th thru August 3rd.

The Regional Transit Commission will launch weekend bus service between Reno and Sand Harbor State Park starting May 23rd, the Reno Gazette reports.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Legislation to expand the range of vehicles eligible to use year-of-manufacture license plates on antique motor vehicles has been approved by the New Hampshire House of Representatives and sent to the Senate.

NEW MEXICO

Santa Fe Mayor Javier Gonzales wants motorists who drive while using a hand-held cellphone to be fined \$200. The present fine is \$100.

OHIO

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien said he will ask the state Supreme Court to consider whether police can use GPS devices to track vehicles without obtaining a warrant.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich signed into law a bill that originally required headlights on motor vehicles to display a "white light" without defining the term. .The new bill requires vehicles to meet federal standards regarding headlamp color.

The city of Columbus said its road crews have fixed nearly 87,000 potholes since the beginning of the year – about half of them in March.

OREGON

A Jackson County judge said flashing your lights to warn other drivers about nearby law enforcement is protected as free speech.

RHODE ISLAND

Legislation to authorize the DMV to issue replica year of manufacture plates for antique vehicles has been introduced in Rhode Island. The vehicles must meet state requirements as antique vehicles, 25 years old or older.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Greenville city's new law banning drivers from using hand-held devices while driving, which extends to traffic stoplights, is the toughest cellphone law in the state. Violators face a \$100 fine for a first offense and the cellphone can be seized on a third offense.

TENNESSEE

Legislation sponsored by SEMA to allow counties to exempt owners of antique motor vehicles from the privilege tax has been signed into law by Gov. Bill Haslam. Sixty of the 95 counties in Tennessee impose a motor vehicle privilege tax.

UTAH

Electric car owners will be able to recharge their vehicles in 10 to 40 minutes at a new station in Salt Lake City. The charging station is at the Salt Lake County government center.

VIRGINIA

Gov. McAuliffe vetoed a bill that would have granted people who receive red-light tickets, the right to contest the citation in court.

WEST VIRGINIA

The city of Morgantown has launched a crackdown on seatbelt violations. A recent blitz by police resulted in 143 citations being issued and another 221 drivers received warnings.

WASHINGTON

A bill to exempt collectible vehicles of any age from emissions testing has been signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee. The vehicles must meet certain state requirements to be in the program.

The contractor digging a highway tunnel under Seattle said costs to repair and restart tunneling machines will be at least \$125 million.

WISCONSIN

Legislation to allow the display on collector vehicles manufactured before 1979, of one or two historical plates from or representing the model year of the vehicle has been approved and sent to the Gov. for his signature. The vehicle must meet state requirements to be considered a classic vehicle. The bill was passed and signed into law by Gov. Scott Walker. A bill to require that motor vehicles display only a single license plate on the rear of the vehicle died when the legislature adjourned for the year.

David Hinds hopes to be the first to fasten the states' new "In God We Trust" license plate to a car. He was the driving force behind the specialty plate that will raise money for veterans.

WYOMING

Bicyclists will be able to travel on nearly 50 miles of roads in Yellowstone National Park. The road into the Park, from West Yellowstone, Mont. to Mammoth Hot Springs opened on March 27th. Last weather reports stated that there was lots of snow in Yellowstone National Park.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

According to a list released by the National Park Service, the five busiest national parks are: #1- Great Smokey Mountains (Tenn&NC) #2 – Grand Canyon (ARZ), #3 – Yosemite (Cal), # 4 – Yellowstone (Mont. Idaho, & Wyo), and # 5 – Olympic (Wash.).

An independent report has concluded that although Mount Rushmore National Memorial is the largest tourism draw to the Black Hills, it has some room for improvement. Visitors cited the cost of parking and the abundance of gift shop items made in China.

A Sticky Mess: A tanker truck hauling corn syrup on Interstate 94 near Valley City, left a mess when it sprang a leak. The stainless steel tank cracked, causing syrup to spill along the roadway.

Larry Becker

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