

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHATSUUP HERE AND THERE



By Larry Becker

There is almost no new federal regulations pertaining to vehicles due to the “Government Shutdown”, and then the Legislators took a week off to “rest up”.

Six years ago (2007) Congress passed a law ordering the transportation dept. to mandate cameras or other backup warning devices on all new cars and light trucks, but there is still no regulation in place.

On October 24th, California Gov. Brown and Governors of seven other states, announced a joint effort on an initiative that aims to put 3.3 million zero-emission vehicles on the roadways within a dozen years.

China is becoming choked with automobile traffic in many of its cities. Authorities has now banned from the roads vehicles over 15 years old out of concern that older cars create more pollution.

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

ARIZONA

Arizona and Nevada transportation officials are holding a series of meetings for public comment on possible alternatives for planning and building a proposed Interstate 11, which would connect Phoenix and Las Vegas and points beyond in each state.

ARKANSAS

Interstate 49 from Texarkana to Shreveport, La., is expected to be completed next summer. The 36.25 mile-stretch of I49 will extend the Arkansas border in Miller County to Interstate 220 in Shreveport. The overall project connects Kansas City, Mo. with Lafayette, La.

CALIFORNIA

AB 8 extends to 2024 programs aimed at reducing auto emissions in Ca., including the Alternative and Renewable Fuel & Technology Program, the Air Quality Improvement Program, the Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program and the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program. The bill has been signed by Gov. Brown.

AB 266 extends the white sticker program which allows for certain low-emission vehicles to drive in high-occupancy or “diamond” lanes until 2019 or until federal authorization expires.

AB 1092 requires development of standards for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in multi-family housing and non-residential developments. The bill has been signed by Gov. Brown.

SB 454 creates the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Open Access Act, which removes obstacles to using electric vehicles by making electric vehicle charging stations accessible to all electric vehicle drivers, easier to locate and more convenient to use. The bill has been signed by Gov. Brown.

SB 286 funds programs that encourage drivers to purchase electric vehicles, which also includes buses and heavy-duty vehicles. Signed by Gov. Brown.

On Sept. 29th, Gov. Brown signed AB 8 which extends a fee on vehicle registration and tire sales to pay for programs designed to reduce emission. The bill also deals with several other electric vehicle programs.

Two new interchanges in Northern California on Hwy 99 will open soon. They cost about \$31 million each and are designed extra wide, so that someday they can be increased to eight lanes.

SB 109, which has been signed by Gov. Brown, requires additional exits in the passenger compartments of limos. In May 2013, a fire in a limo caused the death of 5 women on one of the Bay Area Bridges. A month later, 10 women, escaped serious injuries in a limo accident in Walnut Creek.

A short time ago, the Golden Gate Bridge became cashless, meaning that Fastrak transponders were required, or drivers had go on line to <http://bayareafastrak.org>, log in their credit card number and pay in advance for the amount of crossings you plan to make. Now the good news!! The San Francisco Bay Bridge officials say they are watching how things go at the Golden Gate Bridge and will likely also go cashless at some point.

Approved in 2004 by then Gov. Schwarzenegger envisioned construction of an extensive hydrogen filling stations, the “Hydrogen Highway”, to serve drivers of zero-emission fuel-cell vehicles, but there has been limited growth of the filling stations in California. Gov. Brown recently signed AB 8 into law, which extends, until Jan.1, 2024, existing fees on motor vehicles, boat registration and new tires. Officials say the fees will provide funding for at least 100 hydrogen stations with a commitment of up to \$20 million a year from the California Energy Commissions Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program.

COLORADO

The city of Fort Collins has decided not to adopt a law that would allow bicyclists to legally ride through stop signs. The Bicycle Advisory Committee decided that there were too many questions about safety and confusion.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut will begin imposing stiffer penalties against drivers who speed through work zones. The Advocate of Stanford reports that the endangerment charge is defined as motorists driving more than 75 mph or truckers going faster than 65 mph in a work zone.

DELAWARE

The state Supreme Court upheld a ruling that sheriffs in the state do not have police powers. The duties consist primarily of serving court papers and conducting property sales. But after taking office in 2010, Sussex County Sheriff Jeff Christopher ordered his deputies to stop dangerous drivers and to execute arrest warrants. That led to efforts by state and county officials to rein him in.

A judge has rejected a lawsuit challenging Rehoboth Beach's \$40 parking permit requirement for motor scooters. The town had previously allowed motor scooter operators to park for free at sidewalk bike racks but later determined that it was unsafe.

ILLINOIS

The city of Chicago is removing 36 red-light cameras from 18 intersections after a significant reduction in crashes at the sites. A total of 348 red-light cameras will remain at 172 intersections.

Illinois is preparing to launch a massive effort that gives as many as 250,000 immigrants who are in the country illegally, permission to drive. In January, Gov. Quinn, signed the state's license law that supporters touted as a public safety issue as well as an important step for immigrant rights.

IOWA

Gov. Branstad has rebuked the Republican Party of Iowa leaders who in the last week of September encouraged state motorists to "not give in to illegal searches at traffic safety check points".

LOUISIANA

Only 2% of toll violators on the Crescent City Connection bridges have been approved for amnesty, meaning about \$16 million in due tolls and additional charges, will go to the Attorney General's office for collection when the amnesty offer expired in early October according to the Dept. of Transportation and Development. About 6,400 violators have applied for amnesty. (Note – If you go in that area, make sure you pay your toll).

MAINE

Officials said motorists driving south on the Maine Turnpike will have to wait an additional month before they can drive onto the Falmouth Spur. The Maine Turnpike Authority said construction delays have pushed the reopening of the turnpikes off ramp from November to late December.

MARYLAND

Police in Frederic said nearly \$3.8 million in fines have been issued throughout the city's red-light camera system, which catches an average of 17 violations every day. The city has 12 cameras at nine intersections. Violations at intersections with cameras fell by 55% from July 2005 to July 2013.

State Police made 1,411 traffic stops on the first day of a crackdown on drivers who fail to move over or slow down for emergency vehicles. Police issued 335 citations and 484 warnings.

MASSACHUSETTS

Legislation to ban the "use and sale of any exhaust pipe that increases the sound emission of any vehicle, including motorcycles," has been reintroduced in the Massachusetts State Legislature.

MICHIGAN

On October 9th, the Flat Rock-Oakwood Connector Trail at Oakwood's Metropark opened. The 30-mile greenway for bicycle riders, walkers and runners expands recreation offerings.

MINNESOTA

Five years after the state put restrictions on teenager's driving licenses, the Star Tribune reports that the number of fatalities in crashes involving teen drivers has been cut in half. The rules restrict new drivers from driving after midnight and limit the number of teenage passengers they can carry.

The only bridge on the only road to a county park on Big Kandiyohi Lake has deteriorated to the point that it's no longer safe for vehicles. The one-lane bridge has been downgraded to maximum load-bearing weight of 3 tons – about the equivalent of a fully loaded pickup.

NEVADA

Immigrants living in the U.S. without legal permission can now access a state website, www.DMVNV.com for information on obtaining a driver's privilege card.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Transit has opened a \$40 million station that provides Atlantic City Rail Line customers with direct access to the River Line in Camden. From there, they can travel to Trenton and Philadelphia.

NEW YORK

The state Thruway and the state Dept. of Transportation will add more than 90 "texting zones" along the Thruway and other state highways to encourage drivers to pull over rather than texting while continuing to drive.

Tens of thousands of commuters will face nightmarish delays and inconvenience for weeks as workers and city leaders try to fix a power failure that disabled one of the nation's busiest commuter rail lines. The problem has forced many commuters to drive instead of using rail lines.

NORTH DAKOTA

The city of Fargo is upgrading its pedestrian signals to help visually impaired and blind walkers safely cross city streets. The forum newspaper reports that the new system features a voice that tells the pedestrian to either wait or cross the street.

OHIO

The state is offering Superman license plates featuring the “S” insignia and the phrase “Truth, Justice and the American Way.” The superhero was created in the 1930s by local teens Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.

Drivers renewing their drive’s licenses or state ID cards will no longer be asked if they want to remain on the list of organ donors. The amendment to the state budget is meant to help increase the organ donor registry and to cut times at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Donors can still request a status change at the DMV or on line.

The speed limit has increased on more than 600 miles of roads the last week of September in the second round of increases this year. The legislation raises the speed limit to 70 mph on rural freeways, 60 mph on rural divided highways and 65 mph on rural expressways that don’t have traffic control signals.

RHODE ISLAND

State lawmakers are continuing their review of possible alternatives to a new toll on the Sakonnet River Bridge.

SOUTH CAROLINA

At least 13 cities in South Carolina have banned texting while driving, and Greenville could soon join their ranks. City leaders say they have decided to address the matter locally after a statewide law didn’t come out of the General Assembly this year, the Greenville News reports.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Sioux Falls City Council is considering requiring taxi companies to provide service around the clock, a requirement some companies say could put them out of business. (I guess that nothing happens in Sioux Falls at night)?

TEXAS

The state Department of Transportation has released the names of the top 25 toll jumpers. The agency posted the names on the Internet after setting a deadline for folks to pay up.

VERMONT

A bridge leading vehicles along Route 100 from Jamaica toward Wardsboro is nearly complete as part of The “Accelerated Bridge” program designed by the state. The bridge had been destroyed as a result of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.

VIRGINIA

Tom Rust, the new chairman of the House Transportation Committee, said he would seek to repeal the \$64 annual tax on hybrid vehicles included in the 2013 transportation package.

WASHINGTON

People who pulled into a ranger station at Olympic National Park over the last weekend of the “government shutdown” were given \$125 tickets for “violation of closure.” (I guess that is another way for the government to make money).

WYOMING

The state dept. of transportation is preparing to construct two devices to safely stop cars and trucks that lose their ability to brake on their way downhill from Teton Pass. The arrestor system will employ steel nets to stop vehicles as heavy as 90,000 pounds going as fast as 90 mph down Hwy 22. The Jackson Hole News & Guide reports the arresters will be built a mile and a half apart just outside of Wilson.

WHAT'S UP HERE AND THERE

A recent survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that the percentage of high school seniors, who had a driver's licenses, fell from 85% in 1996 to 73% in 2012. The study analyzed results of a survey of 15,000 seniors from 30 public and private schools. Today, most teenagers are deciding to wait to get their driver's licenses.

In a State Farm survey of 482 newly licensed drivers ages 14-17 and 487 parents of the drivers in this group has found 55% of teens used a hands-free phone, while 62 % of the parents did, 72% of teens observed the no testing ban, 82 % of the parents did.

A recent survey by Liberty Mutual of 1,007 adults age 40 to 65 with at least one parent who still drives, were asked which parent was the hardest to approach about giving up their car keys. Thirty four percent said the father was, 19% said the mother was, 25% said both equally, and 22% said neither parent was difficult.

Infiniti, Mercedes-Benz, Lexus and Acura are releasing 2014 models that are "sort-of" self driving. They allow the driver to take their hands off the wheel, but will stay on the road using radar and cameras.

PPG Industries, the leading supplier of automotive paints, said that 25% of the vehicles it supplied in the 2013 model year were white and the color is considered the favorite car color.

Would you drive a Ford Hep Cat or a Chevrolet Panther? That was the names proposed for the 1955 Ford Thunderbird and the 1967 Chevrolet Camaro. Other suggested names that did not make it were: Lafayette for the Ford Mustang, Panda for the Plymouth Barracuda, Pegasus for the Pontiac Fiero, Utopian Turtle for the Ford Edsel, and Zipp for the Dodge Dart.

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October 25, 2013