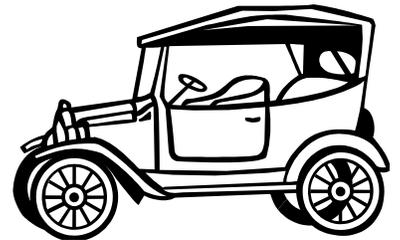
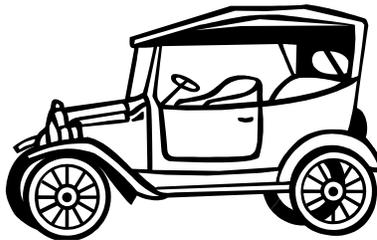
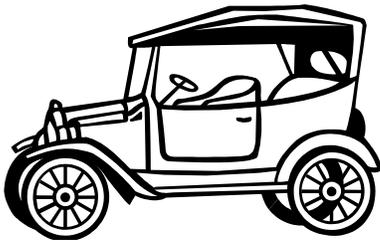


CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc

# OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHATS UP HERE AND THERE



Since most of our Legislators are on their summer vacations, there are very little new vehicle laws. We can expect a flurry of new legislation to be introduced when they return to work.

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

Sometimes it does not pay to do a good deed!! During the recent power outage in Southern California, traffic lights were not working. At one intersection in Pasadena, traffic was backed up for over a mile in all four directions. The police were called, but they said they had no one available

for traffic control. One good citizen parked his vehicle, put on an orange vest, got two orange flags and proceeded to direct traffic. In less than 20 minutes, he had the traffic jam cleaned up and traffic was moving at normal rate. The police were notified that the problem was solved. However, the police showed up and arrested the good citizen giving him a citation that could cost up to \$400. The police say the problem is “a liability issue”.

## **ALABAMA**

The city police of Montgomery have cited 274 drivers for violating a distracted driving ordinance that was enforced starting last year. To be penalized for talking, texting or e-mailing on a cell phone while driving, a driver must have first committed a primary offense, such as a traffic violation. Drivers can be fined up to \$50 for a first offense, up to \$100 for a second offense and up to \$500 for a third.

## **ALASKA**

State Troopers say signs have been posted on all four of the state’s highway safety corridors notifying drivers that headlights must be on at all times. Trooper spokeswoman Megan Peters said violators in the corridors face \$110 tickets.

## **ARKANSAS**

Gov. Beebe has set Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> for an election to ask voters to renew \$575 million in highway bonds to improve roads. The proposal came after plans for \$1.2 billion in funding fell through in June when the state’s trucking industry pulled support for a 5 cent-a-gallon diesel tax increase.

## **CALIFORNIA**

Gov. Brown has vetoed a bill that would have increased the penalties for using a hand held communication device while driving.

As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, California’s DMV is no longer required to mail out advance notices for upcoming vehicle registration. The DMV is balancing that

change with an additional 30 day grace period before penalties would be applied. They are also adding \$12 to the registration fee. It appears that the state is trying to cut back on the cost of mailing out the notices and increasing revenue with increased fees as well, thus adding more fees through penalties. It is recommended that we remind ourselves of the renewal dates with post-it notes, Iphone alarms or notes on our calendars to remind us of the due date. However, at the present time, DMV is still mailing out renewal notices.

AB 1424 has been sent to Gov. Brown. The bill would require the state to suspend occupational, professional or driver's licenses of the states top tax debtors. AB 1424 aims to generate millions of dollars in additional tax collections each year by publicizing – perhaps –embarrassing – those whose tax debt to the state is extraordinarily high. California currently requires the state Franchise Tax Board and the Board of Equalization to separately release a list of the top 250 tax delinquencies in excess of \$100,000 . AB 1424 would expand that list to 500 names. For debtors on the state's list, occupational, professional or driver's licenses would be suspended after July 2012 – except for licenses to practice law or sell alcohol,, which can be suspended but are not required to be under the bill.

AB 353 has been sent to the Gov. The bill would restrict local police from impounding a driver's vehicle at sobriety checkpoints solely because the driver is unlicensed.

AB 1389 also has been sent to the Gov. This bill defines how sobriety checkpoints are to be conducted in line with a California Supreme Court decision.

A question on whether a vehicle without being registered is covered by insurance, brought this response from State Insurance spokesman Tully Lehman, “ If someone doesn't have registration, but gets in a crash, the insurance will cover it he said. The insurance rates mainly raise, but mainly because of the crash.

A section of I-5 in the Stockton area will have a reduced speed limit of 55 mph for the next 18 months to 2 years due to construction.

## **COMMECTICUT**

**State Attorney General Jepsen extended through Labor Day, a ban on price gouging for gas and heating fuel. State law states unconscionably excessive prices are a gross disparity between prices before and after a market disruption such as Tropical Storm Irene.**

## **GEORGIA**

**On Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, the Atlanta's first public electric charging station began operation. The charging station is across from Atlantic station's Millennium Gate and will be powered by overhead solar panels and will be available 24 hours a day.**

## **MARYLAND**

**The State Transportation Authority board agreed to scale back a proposed hike increase on the Bay Bridge after public outcry. The board agreed on a plan to raise the toll to \$4 in November and \$6 in 2013. It originally proposed increases to \$5 on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and \$8 in 2013.**

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

**Residents who live along the Massachusetts Turnpike finally have relief from towering, bright service-plaza signs. The State Department of Transportation said the giant McDonald's and Gulf signs would go dark at night starting August 20<sup>th</sup>. State Rep. David Linsky has tried to get the lights turned off at night for about a decade.**

## **MICHIGAN**

**Ground bits of tire, or crumb rubber was mixed into the asphalt on three sections of Waverly Road between Jolly Road and Interstate 96, when construction began the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August with construction to add a third lane, The crumb rubber is expected to give a longer life to the road, making it less likely to crack and also will be quieter**

## **NEW MEXICO**

**On August 31<sup>st</sup>, a New Mexico judge blocked Gov. Martinez's administration from requiring some immigrants to recertify their driver's license and verify whether they continue to live in the state. New Mexico, is one of only 3 states – the others are Washington and Utah – where an illegal immigrant can get a driver's license because no proof of citizenship is required.**

## **OHIO**

**The Dayton Daily News reported that 107 drivers aged 16 to 20 died in 2007, the year Ohio's graduated driver's license program was introduced. The number of deaths fell to 73 in 2010. An American Medical Association study directly links graduated license programs to lower death rates.**

**Noise barriers that were erected in the mid-90s and were suppose to last 20 years have begun crumbling along Interstate 90, 71 and 27, the Plain Dealer newspaper reports. The state Department of Transportation is spending \$5 million a year to fix or replace highway walls statewide.**

## **OKLAHOMA**

**The Edmond Police Department was recognized for writing 85 \$20 tickets as part of the Get Your Clicks on Route 66 campaign. The campaign aims to promote usage of seat belts and enforce the law. Twenty-two agencies wrote 613 tickets state wide, said Capt. Paul Timmons of the highway safety office. He said 85.9% of Oklahomans wear seat belts.**

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**The state has a motorcycle safety program coordinator. Laura Snow joins the Office of Highway Safety as coordinator of the programs and issues dealing with safe motorcycle use.**

## **TEXAS**

**The city of Dallas recently passed an ordinance stating that if a motorist is pulled over by law enforcement and is not able to provide proof of insurance, their vehicle is towed. To retrieve the vehicle, after being impounded, the owner must show proof of insurance to have the vehicle released. This has made it easy for the city of Dallas to remove uninsured vehicles from the roads. Shortly after the “No Insurance” ordinance program was passed, the Dallas impound lots began to fill up and were nearly full after only nine days. Not only must the owner provide proof of insurance to have the vehicle released, they have to pay for the cost of the tow, a \$350 fine and \$20 for every day the vehicle is kept in the impound lot.**

## **VERMONT**

**Transportation Secretary Brian Searles has told lawmakers it will take \$300 million to \$500 million to repair the roads, bridges and culverts shredded by flood damage from Tropical Storm Irene.**

## **Washington**

**Ferry riders in the state will see a fare increase of 2.5% in October and an additional 3% increase next May under changes approved by the State Transportation Commission. Moreover, a 25 cent surcharge will be added on every ferry ticket to go into a vessel replacement fund. In addition, small cars will pay 90% of the standard vehicle rate beginning Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## **WISCONSIN**

**The Wisconsin Department of Transportation staff has been instructed not to offer free State ID cards unless asked about them. The ID cards were required to be issued under the new state law requiring photo ID at the polls. According to an article in the Capitol Times newspaper, DOT official Steven Krieser told DOT staff members to issue the cards only if the customers asked for them.**

# WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

When Erich Campbell passed two Florida Highway Patrol Cruisers parked in the median near Tampa International Airport in December 2009, he flashed his headlights to warn oncoming drivers of the radar patrol, then to his surprise, one of the troopers pulled over his Toyota and ticketed him for improper flashing of high beams. In August, the Land O'Lakes resident filed a class action lawsuit in Tallahassee against the Highway Patrol and other state traffic-enforcement agencies. He seeks an injunction barring law enforcement from issuing headlight-flashing tickets, plus refunds and civil damages for previously cited motorists. Campbell's lawyer, J. Marc Jones claims that his client's First Amendment right to free speech were violated. The flashing of lights to communicate with another driver is clearly speech Jones said. David Hudson, a scholar at the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University who has studied the issue, said motorists have previously headlight flashing tickets in New Jersey, Ohio and Tennessee, but those were individual cases, rather than the state wide class-action lawsuit in Florida. Five days after the filing of the lawsuit, the Highway stopped citing motorists for flashing their headlights until the lawsuit is settled. The Highway Patrol declined to comment on the case.

A recent article in USA Today newspaper states that one in seven drivers do not have auto insurance as required by state laws.

Strong driver's license laws have led to fewer fatal crashes among 16-year olds a nationwide study found. Many states require young drivers to get extensive experience, including driving with an adult, before getting a full drivers license. The study suggests some teens just wait until they turn 18. Scott Matsen , the study's lead author and a researcher with the California Dept. of Motor Vehicles, said most states don't require drover's education once kids turn 18.

A new tool to aid motorists and bicycle riders is a glove the bicycle riders wears in his left arm that emits a LED light showing that the rider is turning or changing lanes. It only works if the rider uses hand signals to inform drivers that he turning or changing lanes.

AAA is rolling out roadside assistance trucks capable of providing 10 to 15 minutes of battery charging time to electric vehicles. The AAA trucks are equipped with a removable lithium-ion battery pack for mobile charging. It would allow a disabled electric vehicle to travel from 3 to 15 miles to a charging station. AAA said it will deploy the roadside assistant trucks in six U.S. metropolitan areas, the San Francisco Bay area, Los Angles, Seattle, Portland, Oregon, Knoxville, Tenn. and the Tampa Bay Florida area. Federal Officials anticipate more than 1.2 million electric vehicles will be on U.S. roads by 2015, with California the nation's number 1 electric vehicle market.

Two great auto museums to visit in the Midwest are the Hudson Museum in Shpshewana, Ind. and the Kokomo Auto Museum in Kokomo Ind.

*Larry Becker - Oct. 2011*





