



*The following information is prepared by the Office of Media Relations (OMR). These talking points are intended for personnel use only, when speaking on behalf of the Department at press events or during media interviews. **Items highlighted in yellow** are updated by OMR annually. Please ensure you have the most recent data before speaking with the media.*

---

## **NEW LAWS 2011 TALKING POINTS**

### **INSTRUCTION PERMIT: MOTORCYCLE** (AB 1952, Niello)

- **Effective Jan. 1, 2011**, this new law spells out the age-specific requirements for obtaining an instruction permit or applying for a class M1 or M2 driver license. *(Refer the requestor to Department of Motor Vehicles for the specifics).*
- One of the requirements for all California drivers less than 21 years of age, seeking a motorcycle instruction permit or license, is the successful completion of the California Highway Patrol's Motorcyclist Safety Program. *(Refer to the Motorcycle Safety / CMSP talking points on the intranet for more information on this program.)*

### **MOTORCYCLE THEFT** (AB 1848, Garrick)

- **Effective Jan. 1, 2011**, this new law makes it a misdemeanor to possess, lend or give a device designed to bypass the ignition of a motorcycle and start the engine without a key.
- This law makes it a misdemeanor to possess, lend or give any motorcycle ignition or part of a motorcycle ignition, with the intent to steal a motorcycle.
- This law also makes it a misdemeanor to possess, lend or give burglary tools with the intention of stealing of a motorcycle.

### **HIGH-OCCUPANCY VEHICLE (HOV) LANES** (AB 1500, Lieu & SB 535, Yee)

- Low emission vehicles bearing the yellow and white clean air decals can temporarily continue to access HOV lanes regardless of vehicle occupancy after the Jan. 1, 2011 sunset date.
- Yellow Clear Air Access sticker valid until July 1, 2011.
- White Clean Air Access stickers valid until Jan. 1, 2015.

**-MORE-**

- A new sticker for Advanced Technology Partial Zero-Emission Vehicles will be issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (color TBA by DMV) and will be valid from Jan. 1, 2012 – Jan. 1, 2015; this will be limited to 40,000 vehicles. A list of vehicles that qualify can be found on the California Environmental Protection Agency’s Air Resources Board website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/carpool/carpool.htm#vehicles>

**WINDSHIELD VIDEO EVENT RECORDER (AB 1942, Fletcher)**

- This new law is specific about where a video event recorder can be mounted on a windshield and affords passengers privacy.
- The video event recorder may be mounted in a 7-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield on the passenger side of the vehicle, in a 5-inch square in the lower corner of the driver’s side windshield, or in a 5-inch square in the center uppermost portion of the interior of the windshield, behind the rearview mirror. It is also required to be mounted outside of an airbag deployment zone.
- This law also defines a “video event recorder” as a video recorder that continuously records in a digital loop, recording audio, video, and G-force levels, but saves video only when triggered by an unusual motion or crash or when operated by the driver to monitor driver performance.

**EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM: LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (BLUE ALERT) (SB 839, Runner)**

- The “Blue Alert” parallels the existing statewide AMBER Alert notification system, and will be activated when a peace officer has been killed, seriously wounded or assaulted with a deadly weapon and the suspect has fled the scene.
- The plan uses existing AMBER Alert technology, allowing officials to send out a Blue Alert with a license plate number or a vehicle and suspect description so that the public can help authorities locate the suspect.
- **As of Jan. 1, 2011, at least eight states, including California, will have created Blue Alert systems** (*Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Maryland, Georgia, already had one, now; new ones are beginning in 2011 in Delaware and California*).

**NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLE (NEV) (AB 584, Huber & AB 1781, Villines)**

- This new law is specific to communities within the County of Amador and the cities of Jackson, Sutter Creek, Amador and Fresno.
- The law allows the above communities to develop a NEV plan that meets specified state and federal safety requirements (*Outlined in Section 571.500 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations*).

**MOBILE BILLBOARD ADVERTISING DISPLAYS (AB 2756, Blumenfield)**

- This law provides a definition for what a “mobile billboard advertising display” is and gives local authorities the ability to set rules to regulate the use of them, in addition to establishing penalties if someone is found in violation of the established rules; this includes the removal of the mobile billboard advertising display.

**MISCELLANEOUS TRANSPORTATION (SB 1318, Senate Transportation & Housing Committee)**

- Section 667 of the Vehicle Code was added to define a “utility trailer” as a trailer or semi-trailer used solely for the transportation of the user’s personal property.
- This bill also amended Section 5201 of the Vehicle Code to require license plates to be mounted parallel to the ground so the characters are upright and display from left to right.
- Section 21755 of the Vehicle Code which allows drivers of vehicles to pass on the right under specified conditions was amended to clarify that it does not prohibit a bicyclist from passing on the right in either a bicycle lane or on a shoulder.
- Section 22511.55 of the Vehicle Code has been amended to allow a disabled person or disabled veteran to display their distinguishing placard on a clip installed by the vehicle’s manufacturer on the driver’s side front windshield.

**DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI) REPEAT OFFENDERS (AB 1601, Hill)**

- **Effective Jan. 1, 2012**, the court can authorize the 10-year suspension of a person’s driver license in California, if they have been convicted of three or more DUIs.
- After five years have passed, the person can apply for reinstatement of their driver license with DMV if they install an Ignition Interlock Device in their vehicle(s). DMV may terminate a restricted license if the IID requirements are not met.

**MOTORCYCLE EXHAUST SYSTEMS (SB 435, Pavley)**

- **Effective Jan. 1, 2013** it will be illegal to park, use or operate a motorcycle registered in California, which does not bear the required applicable federal Environmental Protection Agency exhaust system label consistent with federal regulations.
- This is considered a mechanical violation as well as a secondary offense (can’t stop for sole violation).

**-MORE-**

#### 4-4-4-4

- If not corrected, it can result in a \$50-\$100 fine for the first conviction; and a \$100-250 fine for the second or subsequent conviction. (*Consult the Bail and Penalty Schedule for total cost of 27202.1 VC*).

*This is only a synopsis and partial list of California's new laws for 2010. For complete information on chaptered bills, enacted in 2010, please refer to the Legislative Counsel website at [www.LegInfo.ca.gov](http://www.LegInfo.ca.gov).*

###