

# Traffic Safety & Transportation Code Amendments

from the 81<sup>st</sup> Regular Legislative Session

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**Any man who can drive safely  
while kissing a pretty girl  
is simply not giving the kiss  
the attention it deserves.**

**~Albert Einstein**

# Traffic Safety: Distracted Driving

## **H.B. 339: Tougher Restrictions on Teen Drivers**

- **Restrictions for first 12 months**
- **NO cell phones**

JACK OHMAN ■ THE OREGONIAN

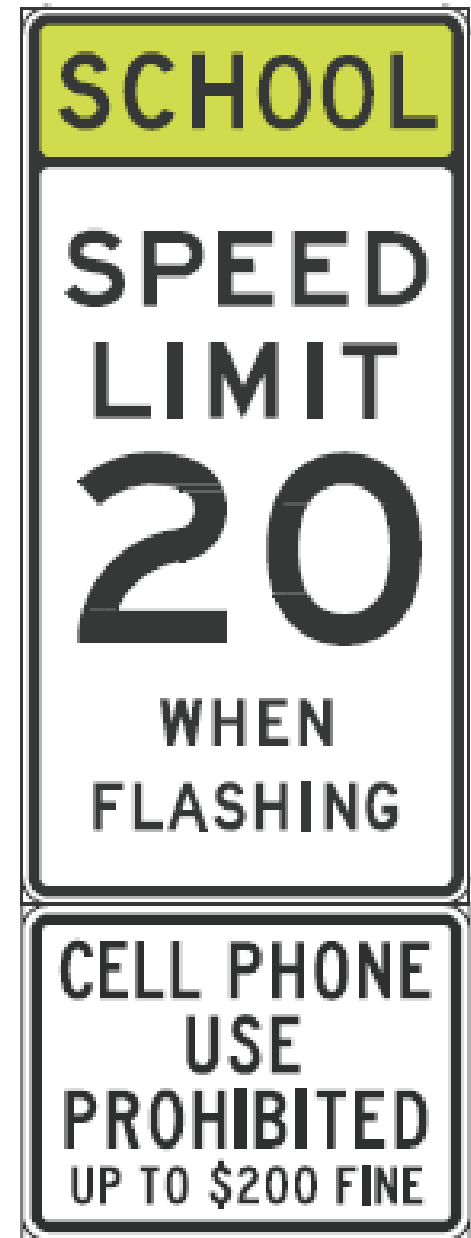


YEAH... DID YOU  
READ THE FEDS  
SQUELCHED THAT  
CELL PHONE  
SAFETY STUDY?  
HOLD ON... I'LL CALL  
YOU RIGHT BACK...

# **H.B. 55: no cell phones in school crossing zones**

**-Hands-free devices OK**

**-City must post signs**



# Traffic Safety: Pedestrian Offenses

**H.B. 1343: if offense results in serious bodily injury or death to a blind or disabled person:**

**max fine = \$500**

**30 hours community service**

**\*No person may carry a white cane unless partially or totally blind**



# Traffic Safety: Safety Belt Offenses

## H.B. 537: Buckle Up Back Seaters



Offense for  
passenger van driver  
to allow child  
to ride without  
safety belt

H.B. 3638: new defense for  
sanitation workers

# **S.B. 61: Child Passenger Safety Seat Systems**

Increases age from under 5 years and less than 36"  
**to under 8 years, unless over 4'9" tall**

**-Warning period until June 1, 2010**



**New  
Penalty**

Currently

**\$100 - \$200**



**Will be:**

**\$25 max**

first offense

**\$250 max**

subsequent offense

## **More new penalties**

**S.B. 1967: if failure to yield  
ROW causes crash and:**

**-person suffers bodily injury  
\$500 - \$2,000**

**-person suffers serious  
bodily injury or death  
\$1,000 - \$4,000**

# **Motorcycle Safety: S.B. 1967**

- **Requires MOC**
- **Helmet law:**
  - no more stickers
  - no more \$10,000 insurance
  - TDI to provide standard proof



**SHARE THE ROAD**



**What's wrong with this picture?**



# **H.B. 537: prohibits motorcyclist from carrying child under 5**

- does not prohibit child from riding  
in a sidecar



new Class C misdemeanor

**fine = \$100 - \$200**

# Motormobiles



- **New 3-wheeled vehicles – called “motorcycles”**
- **Class M not required**

HB 3599, SB 129, SB 1967

## **Golf Carts & NEVs**

### **H.B. 2553: Golf Carts**

- No more registration
- Limited operation
- City can allow or prohibit use

### **S.B. 129: NEVs**

- Max speed = 35 mph
- Operated on streets with speed limit  $\leq$  45 mph

# Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles

## H.B. 2553:

- 4 or more wheels
- Limited registration
- Chapter 663 applies



**Texas Department of Transportation**

# **Texas Department of Motor Vehicles**

**H.B. 3097 creates a Texas  
DMV**

**-Transfers authority over the  
registration and title of vehicles  
effective Nov. 1, 2009**

# Driver's License Offenses

## H.B. 2730: the monster DPS bill

- new residents have 90 days to obtain a TX DL
- must have TX domicile
- need valid physical residential address



# Driver Responsibility Program

- DL may not be suspended before 105<sup>th</sup> day
- Procedure to deduct points for good behavior
- Minimum time periods to pay surcharges
- Establish indigency program
- Waiver of all surcharges for indigent person

**effective Sept. 1, 2011!**



# Failure to Maintain Financial Responsibility

## FMFR related laws

**H.B. 586:** requires court to allow defendant to show evidence of financial responsibility in six-month periods to get car released from impoundment

**H.B. 2012:** DWLI & FMFR = Class B

If a crash results in serious injury or death = Class A

# **Red-Light Camera Civil Penalties**

**S.B. 926: No  
civil penalty  
on owners of  
authorized  
emergency  
vehicles**



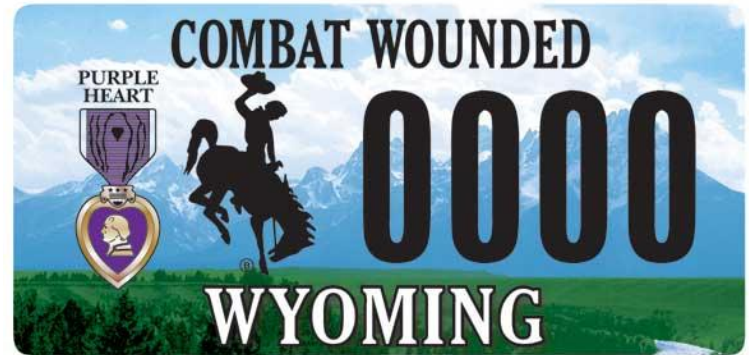
# Disabled Parking

	Current Law	H.B. 3095	S.B. 52
<b>First</b>	\$250 - \$500 fine	\$500 - \$750 fine	same as current
<b>Second</b>	\$300 - \$600 fine	\$550 - \$800 fine & 10 hrs CS	\$500 - \$800 fine & 10 hrs CS
<b>Third</b>	\$300 - \$600 fine & 10-20 hrs CS	\$550 - \$800 fine & 20-30 hrs CS	\$550 - \$800 fine & 20 hrs CS
<b>Fourth</b>	\$500 - \$1,000 fine & 20-50 hrs CS	\$800 - \$1,100 fine & 50 hrs CS	\$800 - \$1,100 fine & 30 hrs CS
<b>Fifth</b>	\$1,000 fine & 50 hrs CS	\$1,250 fine & 50 hrs CS	\$1,250 fine & 50 hrs CS

# H.B. 400: new compliance dismissal for expired disabled parking placards



H.B. 618:  
Purple Heart  
plates exempt  
from meter fees



H.B. 2020: out-of-state  
disabled veterans get  
same parking privileges



**The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.**

**~Dave Barry**

**And now it's time  
for a break!**