

## **A BRIEF RE-CAP OF SOME 2007 TRAFFIC LAWS AS THEY APPLY TO US**

by John Del Santo

**SB1619** If a driver approaches an authorized emergency vehicle or tow truck that has its siren or emergency lights activated, Drivers are now directed to proceed with caution and to make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle or tow truck if practicable and not prohibited by law. If the driver cannot make the lane change the driver should slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe for the existing conditions.

**SB 1610** "Hands Free" telephone bill goes into effect in several different forms and dates starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (no points).

**AB2407** If you are 55 years of or older and have attended a "Mature Driver Class" for insurance discount, you can now renew (every 3 years) by taking a four hour class, rather than an 8 hour class.

**SB1021** This "RIGHT-OF-WAY" Law was diffused and watered down to the point that it is almost non-existent. Now we will have to watch to see if the prosecutors are using it, as they should...(IE Washington State who passed a similar law 3 years ago, and have yet to use it). And we will need to push for more severe penalties. Part of 1021 was used to amend Sec 1656.3 which "Requires the DMV upon updating the *Drivers Handbook*" to include information regarding the importance of respecting the Right-Of-Way of others, particularly Pedestrians, bicycle riders AND MOTORCYCLE RIDERS.

**SEVERAL LAWS AND CHANGES** make DUI convictions more severe, especially regarding commercial drivers and drivers under 21 years of age.

**AB 1850** This measure "makes it unlawful for a person to ride in the trunk of a vehicle." (or any other part of a vehicle not intended for the transportation of passengers) This would apply if you are driving the family 4-wheeler, or if you have a big Gold Wing and some really small friends.

**AMEND Sec.21655.9** Requires local agencies that operate HOV lanes to grant access to those lanes to (one or more persons) operating a vehicle displaying Clean Air Stickers and to suspend access to those lanes if congestion occurs.

These are a few of the 145 changes to the California Vehicle Code. Want more info ? Check [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov); [www.senate.ca.gov](http://www.senate.ca.gov) or [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).