

# New laws for Oregon drivers take effect in 2018

In addition to passing a major transportation funding package, the 2017 Oregon Legislature passed a handful of other laws that will affect drivers and vehicle owners. Most will take effect Jan. 1, 2018.

## Crash reporting

As of Jan. 1, you will not need to report a fender bender if the damage is under \$2,500. This is an increase from the \$1,500 threshold that had been in place since 2004.

Senate Bill 35 is raising the threshold to reflect the increase in cost to repair vehicles. In recent years, many reports submitted to DMV because of the \$1,500 thresh-

old have been for minor crashes, consuming staff time that would be better used for focusing on more serious incidents.

ODOT uses crash data to make informed decisions on how to prioritize engineering the safety of highway and road facilities, and to help provide focus for traffic enforcement resources. Raising the threshold helps focus crash data on incidents that involve fatalities, injuries and serious property damage.

You must report a vehicle crash to DMV within 72 hours if:

- Damage to any vehicle is more than \$2,500 (\$1,500

through Dec. 31, 2017);

- Any vehicle is towed from the scene;
- Injury or death resulted from this incident; or
- Damages to property other than a vehicle involved in the crash is more than \$2,500 (\$1,500 through Dec. 31, 2017).

## Registration card privacy

Senate Bill 930 allows the owner of a vehicle to black out or obscure the residence address, business address, mailing address or vehicle address shown on the registration card and on proof of insurance or other current proof of compliance carried in the vehicle.

## Hardship permits

Senate Bill 252 allows a person with a hardship permit to apply to drive for the purposes of participating in gambling addiction treatment. This bill applies to hardship permits issued on or after Jan. 1.

## Three-wheel vehicle testing

As of Jan. 1, a licensed Oregon driver will not need to take a drive test to receive an endorsement on their license to drive three-wheeled motorcycles.

Under a related bill — House Bill 3125, which took effect in June 2017 — no endorsement is required on “autocycles,” which are

motorcycles designed to travel on three wheels, equipped with a steering wheel, a non-straddle seat and a safety belt.

## Ex-POW registration plates

House Bill 2149 changes the registration for Ex-POW vehicle plates to permanent registration. New applicants for Ex-POW registration will pay a one-time registration fee of \$15, plus the plate manufacturing fee. Persons who have current Ex-POW registration as of Jan. 1 will not be required to pay a renewal fee.

## Crater Lake plates

House Bill 2922 increases the surcharge for Crater Lake license plates from \$10 per plate to \$15 per plate as of

Jan. 1. The Crater Lake fee supports the Oregon Community Foundation for use on projects at Crater Lake National Park.

Any time a person needs to visit a DMV office, first check [www.OregonDMV.com](http://www.OregonDMV.com) to find office hours, locations and current wait times at the larger offices. People also can do some DMV business from home — renew a vehicle registration, file a change of address or file notice of the sale of your vehicle online without getting in line at an office.

## Siuslaw finalists named for Geography Bee

Finalists in the National Geographic Society’s Geography Bee at Siuslaw Elementary School and Siuslaw Middle School have been announced.


Elementary school finalists are: Dylan Jensen, Joel Sissel, Ronald Johnston, Kaden Wood, Malacai Lade, Maya Wells, Jack Clinton, Rhianna Lane and Daniel Gorbett.

Middle school finalists are: Andrew Jensen-Norman, Samuel Castle, Jasmine Vazquez, Harrison Hubner, Camp Lacouture, Izayah Degitz, Chad Hughes, Owen Harklerode and Jeffrey Edman.

All of these students scored highly in the preliminary qualifying round; 25 moderately hard multiple-choice questions offered to all fourth through eighth grade students.

The top scoring students were declared finalists.

The finals and championship rounds will be held Thursday, Jan. 18. The event is not open to the public but parents and family are invited.



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