



## 2011 Traffic Law Update

# 2011 Bills



- **House Bill 101**
  - Enacts new reportable offenses, O.C.G.A. 40-6-55 and 40-6-56, which requires vehicles to yield to bicycles in bicycle lanes and maintain a distance of 3 feet from a bicycle when feasible.
  - Also modifies Part 1 of Article 13 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 relating to riding bicycles.

# Legislative Update (cont'd)



- **House Bill 112**
  - Modifies provisions in Chapter 6 of Title 17 to include violations relating to commercial vehicle or driver safety, hazardous materials transportation, and motor carrier insurance and registration requirements
  - Enacts definition of “lightweight commercial vehicle” and new motor carrier and hazardous materials requirements



# Legislative Update (cont'd)

- **House Bill 269**
  - Amends O.C.G.A. 40-5-24 to provide a definition for “immediate family” for teens driving on a Class D license
    - Includes the driver’s parents and step-parents, grandparents, siblings and step-siblings, children, and any other person who resides at the license holder's residence



# Legislative Update (cont'd)

- **House Bill 269 (cont'd)**
  - Amends O.C.G.A. 40-5-58 to provide that a conviction for a moving violation during the first 2 years of an HV revocation will prevent issuance of an HVPL
  - Similar language already included in O.C.G.A. 40-5-64 relating to limited driving permits

# Legislative Update (cont'd)



- **House Bill 269 (cont'd)**
  - Adds language to O.C.G.A. 40-5-60 to allow the DDS to send suspension notices to updated addresses not reflected on a customer's driving record if found in USPS records



# Legislative Update (cont'd)

- **House Bill 269 (cont'd)**
  - Language was added by the House Motor Vehicles Committee to amend O.C.G.A. 40-5-81 to provide that courts may now only require defendants to use defensive driving schools approved by the DDS.
  - Also limited defensive driving to corporations.
  - Raised surety bond for driver's education programs to \$10,000.00.

# Legislative Update (cont'd)



- **House Bill 269 (cont'd)**
  - Adds texting while operating a commercial motor vehicle to the list of serious offenses resulting in commercial driving disqualifications in O.C.G.A. 40-5-142

# Legislative Update (cont'd)



- **House Bill 269 (cont'd)**
  - Adds verbiage to O.C.G.A. 42-8-111 to provide that ignition interlock exemptions may be granted beyond the time limits established in O.C.G.A. 40-13-32 and 40-13-33

# Legislative Update (cont'd)



- **House Bill 415**
  - Revamps the compilation of jury pools by the AOC and Superior Court Clerks' Council

# Legislative Update (cont'd)



- **Senate Bill 57**
  - Allows for photographic enforcement of vehicles improperly passing a stopped school bus
  - Civil monetary penalty, not reportable to the DDS (like red-light camera enforcement provisions)

# Legislative Update (cont'd)



- **Senate Bill 88**
  - Increases mandatory child car seat/booster seat requirements to anyone under age 8.



# Legislative Update (cont'd)

- **Senate Bill 240**
  - Enacts definition of “personal transportation vehicle” in O.C.G.A. 40-1-1(43.1)
    - (A) Minimum of four wheels;
    - (B) Capable of a maximum level ground speed of less than 20 miles per hour;
    - (C) With a maximum gross vehicle unladen or empty weight of 1,375 pounds; and
    - (D) Capable of transporting not more than eight persons.

# Legislative Update (cont'd)



- **Senate Bill 240 (cont'd)**
  - Excludes mobility aids, including power wheelchairs and scooters, that can be used indoors and outdoors for the express purpose of enabling mobility for a person with a disability.
  - Also excludes all-terrain vehicles

# Legislative Update (cont'd)



- **Senate Bill 240 (cont'd)**
  - Operation of “personal transportation vehicle” is governed by a new Code Section, O.C.G.A. 40-6-363 (not reportable to the DDS)



# Questions???

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