February 23, 2018

AAMVA Congratulates Ray Martinez on Senate Confirmation to Lead Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

AAMVA proudly congratulates Raymond Martinez on his appointment as Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Administrator Martinez was confirmed yesterday, February 13th, by voice vote of the Senate. An active AAMVA member for many years, Martinez holds the unique distinction of having served as the chief motor vehicle administrator in two separate jurisdictions, serving as the New York State Commissioner of Motor Vehicles from 2000 to 2005 and more recently as the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission from 2010 until January 2018. He also served on the AAMVA International Board of Directors from 2015 and previously as President of AAMVA Region I in 2005. His background also includes time as the Deputy U.S. Chief of Protocol and Diplomatic Affairs for the U.S. Department of State and the White House, Deputy Director for Scheduling and Advance at the White House for First Lady Nancy Reagan, and Assistant General Counsel for the Long Island Power Authority. AAMVA is excited to continue working with Martinez in his new capacity.

2018 Workshop and Law Institute - Session Spotlight

Register today for the 2018 AAMVA Workshop and Law Institute, March 13-14, in Denver, Colorado. We have planned a program packed with informative sessions! Here's just a highlight of what you can expect at the 2018 Workshop and Law Institute:

**The Fight Against Human Trafficking**
*Tuesday, March 13, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm*
Hear from a national leader and champion about strategies to fight human trafficking. This session addresses the ongoing work to fight human trafficking. Learn about the dynamics of human trafficking, what your agency can do, essential partnerships, and how you can help after a victim is rescued.

**The Mobile DL of Tomorrow**
*Tuesday, March 13, 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm*
In this session you will learn what a mobile driver license really is and is not and you will hear about some of the challenges and opportunities that jurisdictions have with implementing an mDL. You will also learn what some of the interim steps are that issuing authorities should take and who is depending on these e-credentials.

Visit the [2018 AAMVA Workshop and Law Institute](#) page to view the complete Program-at-a-Glance, and to register online today!
Legislative Alert: FMCSA Authorizes Immediate Short-Term Waiver of Certain CDL Requirements for Former Residents of Puerto Rico

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has granted an immediate 90-day waiver from certain federal requirements concerning proof of U.S. citizenship or proof of legal permanent residence and domicile to enable state driver licensing agencies (SDLAs) to accept commercial learner’s permit (CLP) and commercial driver’s license (CDL) applications from former residents of Puerto Rico. Details are available in an AAMVA Legislative Alert that went out to members on Thursday.

Staneski Proposes Bill to Privatize Some DMV Services (Connecticut)

To address the long wait times and inefficiencies at the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and to better serve state constituents, State Rep. Pam Staneski has proposed a bill this legislative session to privatize some of the services done by the state agency. Read the article at milfordmirror.com.

Pennsylvania DOT, State Police Raise Awareness of Lesser-Known Highway Safety Laws

To encourage safer driving in the state, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Secretary Leslie S. Richards and State Police Commissioner Tyree Blocker today urged drivers to review and obey driver safety laws that may not be well known among the public. Read the press release.

Alcohol-Related Crash Fatalities in Pennsylvania Down Significantly

As opioid abuse in Westmoreland County sets new records every year, year-end statistics from the coroner’s office indicate one positive change in another decades-long substance abuse problem: alcohol-related traffic fatalities. Read the article at triblive.com.

People Found Driving With Fake Tags and Without Tags (Alabama)

An ABC 33/40 News I-Team investigation has found plenty of cases where drivers may be skirting the law. State officials say some drivers may be delaying, or even evading taxes and fees, by creating their own fake car tags—or driving without any license plates at all. Read the article at abc3340.com.

How Many People Say 'I'm a Cajun' On Their Driver's License? (Louisiana)

Hundreds of Louisiana residents have taken advantage of state initiatives that allow them to declare their heritage on official identification. Read the article attheadvertiser.com.

Self-Driving Cars: The Future is Near in Tennessee

Are you ready to ride in a self-driving vehicle? Knoxville is preparing for the future — a future that includes autonomous/self-driving vehicles. Based in Knoxville, Gridsmart has jumped to the forefront of traffic camera technology with an eye to the future that includes incorporating self-driving technology. Read the article at wkm.com.

Official Wants Driverless-Only Lanes on Busy Texas Highway

Bexar County Commissioner Kevin Wolff believes that a meeting he had last month in Washington with federal transportation officials could lead to construction of...
lanes for driverless automated vehicles on the Austin-San Antonio section of Interstate 35. Read the article govtech.com.

Driverless Vehicles Hit the Road in Texas
If you think your car will be driving you anytime in the near future, think again. Known as driverless or self-driving vehicles, autonomous vehicles are in the spotlight. But while the auto, tech and ride-share industries are driving the effort, the fact that automation levels vary means it will be a while before you'll pass a truly driverless vehicle on your daily commute. Read the article at usnews.com.

States Consider Protecting Benefits for DACA and TPS Immigrants Facing Loss of Status (Virginia)
State lawmakers in Virginia and across the country are weighing a host of bills aimed at preserving driver’s licenses and other benefits for undocumented immigrants who may lose the protected status long afforded them by the federal government. Read the article at washingtonpost.com.

License Plate Campaign Aims to Raise Awareness About Teen Distracted Driving (Virginia)
Vehicles across Virginia will soon be moving billboards for the fight against distracted driving. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) and AAA Mid-Atlantic are teaming up for the Take Action Against Distraction License Plate Design Contest. Read the article wric.com.

Court Challenge Can Proceed Against DMV Decision Allowing Tesla Store to Open in Henrico County (Virginia)
A court case will be allowed to proceed challenging electric car maker Tesla’s eligibility to open a company-owned store in the Richmond area. Read the article at richmond.com.

Indiana Legislation Would Set Safety Standard for Driverless Cars
Most cars may not be driving themselves yet, but state Rep. Ed Soliday wants Indiana to be ready for the day they do. Read the article at chicagotribune.com.

Minnesota’s computer system that handles vehicle registrations and titles is a mess. To fix it, state information technology officials say they need $43 million — and some of it right away. The system, known as MNLARS, has already cost $93 million and was supposed to work. Read the article at twincities.com.

Will Missouri Drop Mandatory Vehicle Inspections? These Legislators Hope So
Every Missouri car owner knows the drill: When it comes time to renew your license plates you first have to get one of those white slips of paper that says the car passed inspection. That’ll be $12. But there is an effort afoot in the General Assembly to do away with that requirement. Read the article at kansascity.com.

Missouri’s 'High-Risk' Teen Drivers Could Lose Licenses Under House Bill
Young Missouri drivers accused of unlawful driving could lose their licenses under a bill before the House Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety. Read the article at news-leader.com.

House OKs New Fee On Vehicles to Raise $120M for Roads (Arizona)
Arizona motorists could fund what amounts to a $120 million infusion into road construction and repairs. On a 35-24 vote Tuesday, the House agreed to allow the Department of Transportation to levy a new fee on all vehicles sufficient to finance the $120 million annual cost of operating the highway patrol division of the Department of Public Safety. Read the article tuscon.com.

Assemblyman Tom Lackey Introduces DMV Legislation (California)
Assemblyman Tom Lackey introduced AB 2796 on Friday that would give the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) access to emergency contact information. The legislation introduced by Assemblyman Tom Lackey would require the temporary license plate system being developed by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for car dealers and lessor-retailers to record emergency contact information provided by a purchaser at the point of sale. Read the article at hometownstation.com.

An Unattended Solution To The DMV’s Friction-Filled Reputation (California)
To put it gently, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has gained a less-than-favorable reputation over time. As a possible solution to improve the public service struggle, the state of California has been exploring — and finding success with — unattended retail technology for nearly a decade. Read the article at pymnts.com.

Rolling Right On Red Could Soon Be Cheaper in California
Two state lawmakers are making another attempt at lowering the fine for drivers who fail to completely stop at a red light before making a right turn. Read the article at sacbee.com.

California Drivers Under 21 Could Lose License for Year If Caught on the Road Under the Influence of Marijuana
California motorists under the age of 21 would lose their driver's license for a year if caught driving with marijuana in their system under new legislation, though the state still is developing methods of measuring the drug in the body and determining a standard for impairment. Read the article at latimes.com.

Bill Would Let Californians Choose Driver's License Pictures
An effort by a state lawmaker to generate more money for driver's education in California schools is banking on people's vanity. Democratic Senator Josh Newman of Fullerton has introduced a bill that would let drivers take more than one photo at the DMV and then choose which photo goes on their license. Read the article at capradio.org.

Real ID Sufficient to Verify Residency (New Mexico)
Benjamin Cloutier, who handles information for the state Taxation and Revenue Department, which oversees the Motor Vehicle Division, says, "New Mexico does not issue an Enhanced Driver's License," which verifies citizenship. Read the article at abqjournal.com.

Utah Lawmaker Brings Back Bill to End Auto Registration Requirements
The third time was a charm for Rep. Christine Watkins, R-Price, who found support from a House committee on her proposal to repeal the requirement that motorists have vehicle registration in the car. Read the article at ks1.com.

Proposed License Plate Options Include Retro Black Look (Utah)
Utah lawmakers are considering a trio of bills that would create new license plates, recognizing the Utah State Historical Society, promoting Autism awareness and commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which granted American women the right to vote. Read deseretnews.com.
Safety Inspections Gone, But Cars Must Still Be Safe, UHP Warns (Utah)
The Utah Highway Patrol wants to remind the public that while safety inspections are no longer required in Utah, drivers are still required to have a safe vehicle. Read the article at deseretnews.com.

What Helps a New Driver? More Driving
How can we keep our kids safe as they’re learning to drive? Some think the main problem is teenage irresponsibility ... The real problem is lack of experience, and the only way to get to the other side is to have teenagers do more driving. Read the article at nytimes.com.

A Designated Driver For the Driverless Car
Phantom Auto says it can eliminate cases where a driverless vehicle may become confused or stuck by having a human take the wheel from a remote operations center. Read the article at autonews.com.

On Twitter
@AAMVAConnection has been watching the twitter feed and decided to highlight some of the tweets here. Links are provided within most of the tweets, and we have also provided a link to each tweet as well. Note that you do not have to have an account or sign in to Twitter to view the message posts, images associated with the post, and the reach of the message (retweets, favorited, etc.).

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection.

Check out recent @AAMVAConnection Twitter action.

***Thank you for the @AAMVAConnection mentions!***

KYTC @KYTC | View the Tweet

YOUR VEHICLE COULD BE UNDER RECALL -- CHECK TO PROTECT
http://www.checktoprotect.org

WhosYourDriver.org @WhosYourDriver | View the Tweet
Today is your last chance to score a VIP Experience at Martinsville Speedway or Richmond Raceway! Hop on over to our site now and follow the steps to enter and you could be chosen for a VIP Experience! [http://www.drivesmartva.org/whosyourdriver/vip-experience-details/]…

Massachusetts RMV @MassRMV | View the Tweet

SKIP THE LINE,
GO ONLINE.

MASSRMV.COM

Relax! It's February vacation! Visit [http://MassRMV.com](http://MassRMV.com) for more than 25 online transactions. #SkipTheLine

DRIVE SMART Virginia @DRIVESMARTVA | View the Tweet

BUCKLE UP.
PHONE DOWN.

Get Ready for Distracted Driving Awareness Month! [http://conta.cc/2sGv0q1](http://conta.cc/2sGv0q1)
Zero Fatalities @ZeroFatalities | View the Tweet

All the cool kids are doing it. Join the Resistance and rebel against using your phone behind the wheel.

The Regional News e-newsletter is developed and distributed by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). This message was intended for INSERT_EMAIL. If you would like to stop receiving this message, click here to unsubscribe.

To manage all your AAMVA subscriptions, click here.

4401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22203