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aamva participates in washington state's autonomous vehicles working group
washington state officials held the inaugural meeting of their legislatively created autonomous vehicle (av) working group meeting in olympia last week to begin developing a strategy for addressing avs in their state. cathie curtis, director of vehicle programs and brian ursino, director of law enforcement provided an overview of automation in vehicles and the recently published jurisdictional guidelines for the safe testing and deployment of highly automated vehicles. aamva's regional director, julie knittle, also attended.

the working group consists of legislators and representatives from the governor’s office, the department of licensing, the department of transportation, insurance commission, and the commission on transportation. darren grondel, director of the washington traffic safety commission, and former chair of the aamva law enforcement standing committee, was elected chair of the washington state autonomous vehicle working group. other topics on the agenda included a review of current av activities around the us, the implications of autonomous and connected vehicles on state statutes and regulations, the freight industry, insurance and liability, law enforcement and economic development.

in district of columbia, no more license suspensions for drivers with unpaid tickets
drivers who have unpaid traffic tickets or miss court hearings to address them will no longer see their licenses suspended under legislation approved by the d.c. council this week. in ending license suspensions due to unpaid tickets, the district joins a handful of jurisdictions that have rejected a practice deemed discriminatory against the poor. the decades-old policy has affected thousands of d.c. drivers each year. several states and cities recently have drawn similar conclusions. lawmakers in california, mississippi and new orleans have recently passed similar legislation. read the article at washingtonpost.com.
Legislature Votes That Drivers Will Not Have Licenses Suspended For Failing To Pay Fines (Maine)
Among the vetoes overridden by Maine lawmakers Monday is one that supporters are calling a "significant victory for criminal justice reform." The Legislature is putting an end to the practice of automatic drivers' license suspensions for failing to pay fines for most non-driving-related violations. Read the article at mainepublic.org.

Roadmap Unclear for Driverless Cars After Sununu Veto (New Hampshire)
After months of tweaks in the House Transportation Committee, a bill to create a license system to test driverless cars on New Hampshire's roads was hit by a veto this week – Gov. Chris Sununu's seventh in office. In a letter explaining the decision Monday, Sununu centered his opposition around safety concerns. Read the article at concordmonitor.com.

DMV Launches ‘Real ID’ Public Awareness Campaign (New York)
The state Department of Motor Vehicles launched a REAL ID public awareness campaign on Thursday, urging New York residents to get a REAL ID now. According to the federal REAL ID Act, those wishing to fly within the U.S. using their New York State-issued license or ID card will need a REAL ID or Enhanced Driver License (EDL) starting October 1, 2020. DMV encourages everyone who is renewing or obtaining a license or non-driver ID for the first time to get a REAL ID, according to an announcement kicking off the public awareness campaign. Read the article at romesentinel.com.

Driver's License? There's an App to Carry That in Louisiana
Louisiana residents can now carry their driver's license on their smartphone. News outlets report a new phone app offers a digital version of the Louisiana driver's license, allowing motorists an option aside from carrying a physical license. The smartphone app is called LA Wallet. ... Though the app is free to download, a $5.99 charge is required to activate the license. Read the article at tampabay.com.

Handicapped Parking Placard Changes Stall (Kentucky)
Owners of disabled parking placards shouldn't expect promised changes to the state's system anytime soon. July is the month Kentucky county clerk's offices renew all disabled parking plates and was also the expected time when new legislation around the state's parking placard system was to be implemented. Due to the work involved in facilitating some of the changes, placard users may not see changes until September. Read the article at kentuckynewera.com.

DMV Changes Policy After Woman with International Marriage License Had Issue Getting REAL ID (North Carolina)
One day after WRAL News shared the story of a woman who got caught up navigating the path to obtain a REAL ID, the DMV changed their policy. Amy Cordry, of Garner, said she gathered nearly 20 documents before she headed to the DMV to get a REAL ID - which will be a requirement beginning in 2020 for those who fly or visit federal buildings, military installations and nuclear facilities. ... But her marriage license was issued by the Island of Jamaica, not in the United States, and could not be accepted as a legal proof of her name change. Read the article at wralcom.

Duplicate License Plates Cause Confusion for Cops (South Carolina)
License plates with only one number on them may seem unique, but there are duplicates and they are becoming a problem for police. "There are 70 with just the number one on it, there are 60 with the number two on it," said Kevin Shwedo, the executive director of the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. There are 792 specialty plates in the state for people on certain commissions, boards and for state representatives and senators. Read the article at wpde.com.
Could This Be the End of the Road for the Route 66 License Plate? (Texas)
Route 66 is such a part of American lore that a license plate in its honor would seem like a no-brainer. But a planned roll out of a specialty license plate honoring the iconic road seems to have hit a dead-end. To go forward with the plate, there must be 200 pre-orders by August 8, said Steve Farrar, president of My Plates.com. Read the article at star-telegram.com.

DPS: Make Plans for CDL Testing Today (Texas)
Summer is one of the busiest times at driver license offices statewide, and the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding all customers seeking a Commercial Driver License (CDL) to begin the process as early as possible. This is particularly important for those seeking employment at school districts to allow them ample time to obtain a CDL before the school year begins. Read the article at everythinglubbock.com.

DMV Contest Winning License Plate Now Available (Virginia)
The Virginia DMV newest special license plate is now available to the public. The “Eyes on the Road” license plate brings awareness to the dangers of distracted driving and the importance of keeping your eyes on the road. Read the article at augustafreepress.com.

DMV Providing Veteran Indicator on Virginia Driver’s Licenses
The Department of Motor Vehicles is now offering veteran indicators for Virginia driver’s licenses and ID cards. Partnering with the Department of Veteran Services, the DMV believes adding the word “veteran” on a license is the easiest way to prove veteran status. While there is no extra charge for the indicator, customers must pay the standard fee for an original or replacement ID or license. Veterans can apply for the indicator online or in person at any Virginia DMV. Read the article at wtkr.com.

Illinois’ New Automatic Voter Registration Process Begins at DMVs Across the State
The process to implement automatic voter registration has begun in Illinois, and while some aspects of the law meant to modernize the state’s voter rolls will be seen immediately, others won’t happen until 2019. This week is the first time that Illinois’ Department of Motor Vehicle employees will be able to check for a customer’s voter registration online. It’s part of a law passed last year that will eventually register an eligible resident to vote any time they interact with the DMV. Read the article at ilnews.org.

Mobile Drivers’ Licenses to Debut in Iowa This Year
Later this year, around a million Midwesterners will get the chance to use their smartphones in a way that’s believed to be a first for any state — as mobile or digital drivers’ licenses. Iowa is in the early stages of deploying the technology that will enable residents to display and control their personally identifiable information. The state is confident this is what the public wants. Read the article at gotech.com.

Goodbye, Embossed Characters: Kansas Modifies Standard License Plates
Kansas is set to roll out a modified license plate Aug. 1. It's not the look of the plates that will be changing, so much as the process by which they are produced, a move that state officials say will save money. ... The switch to flat plates is due to a process the state calls digital license plate production. Some Johnson County officials are critical of the new process for a simple reason: Since people won't get their plates and their registration stickers at the same time like they did in the past, there's a bigger chance people will lose registration stickers before they have a chance to put them on the plates. Read the article at kbia.org.

Ohio Requires New ID by 2020
For residents renewing their driver’s license this year, they will need to prove they are who they say they are and will have a choice between a compliant or standard ID.
This week, Ohio began working under the mandates of the Real ID Act, a coordinated effort between state and federal governments to improve the reliability, security and accuracy of state-issued IDs and driver's licenses. Read the article at chroniclet.com.

New Self-Driving Car Facility to Test Vehicles in Central Ohio
By next year, there will be more autonomous vehicles on Ohio's roadways. On Monday, the Transportation Research Center broke ground on a new 540-acre self-driving vehicle facility in East Liberty. It will be the largest of its kind in North America. Read the article at cleveland19.com.

Better-Trained Drivers Keep Roads Safe (Alberta)
The Government of Alberta is launching consultations with Albertans and key stakeholder groups on three proposed initiatives:

- Mandatory entry-level training for commercial drivers.
- Pre-entry requirements for new commercial carriers.
- Modifying the road test model for all driver's licence classes.

Read the full release at alberta.ca.

California Regulator Sees 'Window' for Deal on Fuel Economy Rules
California is ready to work with major automakers on revisions to greenhouse gas emission vehicle rules through 2025 and sees a “window” for a deal in the coming months, the state's top clean air regulator told Reuters on Monday. Read the article at reuters.com.

California Ballot Initiative to Reverse ‘Sanctuary State,’ Undocumented Immigrant Driver’s License Laws Cleared to Collect Signatures
Proponents of a measure that would repeal California's "Sanctuary State" law and reverse another law that allows undocumented immigrants in California to get a driver's license have been cleared to gather signatures for a 2020 ballot initiative. The initiative also seeks to reverse another law, Assembly Bill 60, which allows anyone who cannot prove they are in the U.S. legally to get a California driver's license using identification from their home country, according to KTXL. They still, however, must show proof of California residency and pass the state's written and driving tests. Read the article at ktla.com.

DMV Investigates Startup that has Disrupted Appointment Process (California)
As the interminable lines at DMV offices grow longer and timely appointments become nearly impossible to schedule, an Oakland startup offering “expedited appointments” for $19.99 has seen its business boom. DMV investigators are looking into how the company, YoGov, which partners with the website DMV.org, can guarantee appointments within two weeks when most visitors to the actual DMV website are lucky to find available slots within six weeks. Read the article at sfchronicle.com.

Clinics Designed to Address Delayed Birth Certificates, Real ID Issues (New Mexico)
Continued collaboration between Navajo Nation and New Mexico state government offices has resulted in the establishment of clinics where tribal members can receive help obtaining delayed birth certificates and Real ID driver's licenses or identification cards. Read the article at daily-news.com.

With Russian Hacking Fresh in Mind, Washington State Beefs Up Elections Cybersecurity
Another potential weak spot arose earlier this year. In February, state officials announced a software problem in the Washington Department of Licensing motor-voter system that caused thousands of people to be left off the voter rolls. The glitch
largely involved people who changed names on their driver's licenses and received a new driver's license number. Read the article at seattletimes.com.

**OTHER NEWS**

**Save the Date for the Southeast Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Research Summit**
The Center for Advanced Public Safety at the University of Alabama presents the Southeast Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Research Summit, October 30-31, 2018 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. This event will be the inaugural summit connecting industry, universities, and government to discuss topics such as truck parking, work zone safety, human trafficking, autonomous vehicles, data sharing and best practices. Learn more at www.caps.ua.edu/cmv-summit/.

**Hopes Fade for Senate Action on Self-Driving Bill**
The legislative effort to bring more certainty to autonomous vehicle development faces an increasingly uncertain future. ... But despite the broad bipartisan support, progress has been stalled ever since. Senate backers are exploring ways to bring the AV START Act to a vote, but prospects are dim as the Senate calendar fills up with other Republican priorities. Read the article at autonews.com.

**U.S. Regulators Grappling with Self-Driving Vehicle Security**
In closed-door meetings last March, U.S. transportation regulators and others grappled with questions about whether police should have the power to disable self-driving cars and whether an automatic alert that a robo-taxi had been in a wreck could violate an occupant's privacy, a report released on Tuesday showed. The 39-page-summary of the meetings involving U.S. Transportation Department officials and industry, labor, and advocacy groups illustrated the thicket of legal, safety and social issues that have to be worked out as companies such as Alphabet Inc's Waymo unit and General Motors Co gear up to deploy self-driving cars for public use. Read the article at reuters.com.

**FMCSA Seeks Industry Feedback on Autonomous Trucks at Listening Session This Week**
The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has scheduled another listening session for later this week to gather information about autonomous trucks. ... FMCSA says it's hoping to hear comments from autonomous technology stakeholders and more, including academia, insurance groups, and technology providers and developers. Information gathered during the session will help the agency update its regulations as they pertain to the development and safe integration of autonomous trucks and technology. Read the article at ccjdigital.com.

**Study: Majority of Drivers Do Not Believe Texting While Driving is Dangerous**
Sixty-eight percent of people say they need a lot of convincing to believe in the dangers of texting and driving. The Society for Risk Analysis reports that people who text and drive are six times more likely to be involved in a car accident. However, a study published in Risk Analysis: An International Journal found that despite evidence that texting while driving is dangerous, the "fear of missing out" and separation anxiety prevents people from following the law and abstaining from using their phones behind the wheel. Read the article at usnews.com.

**Study: Teen Drivers 8 Times More Likely to Crash Shortly After Getting License**
A new study validates the fears of every parent who has logged multiple sleepless nights after a child has earned his or her driver’s license. The research, led by the National Institutes of Health, shows teen drivers are eight times more likely to be involved in a crash (or near crash) in the first three months after getting their license, compared to the first three months after getting their learner’s permit. Read the article at nhregister.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!***

The IACP @TheIACP | View the Tweet
Persons affected by mental illness can often appear to law enforcement as a person who is under the influence. Learn to detect and evaluate behavioral signs at the IACP Conference on Drugs, Alcohol, and Impaired Driving.
http://www.theiacp.org/DAIDconference

Road to Zero @RoadToZeroUS | View the Tweet
It's the 100 Deadliest Days of summer where teen drivers are most at risks so remember to talk with the #TeenDrivers in your life! Don't let summer memories turn into tragedies.
@safekids
@NationalFCCLA
@wesavelivesorg
@SADDnation
@NOYSnews
#100DeadliestDays

NHP Northern Command @NHPNorthernComm | View the Tweet
Today, we are discussing the "Lane Loitering" Law. In essence, you cannot drive in the far left lane unless you are overtaking another vehicle or preparing to make a left turn. Avoid the citation and make sure you are only in the leftmost lane for the aforementioned reasons.
Step by Step Guide to Contact MA Legislators! Let's pass the hands-free bill in Massachusetts [https://gotruemotion.com/blog/lets-pass-the-hands-free-bill-in-ma/#.W0eqbja3K-q.twitter] ... @goTrueMotion @Safe_Roads @WalkBoston @universalhub @MassBike @Visionzeronet

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