

## AAMVA Regional News

September 14, 2012

### Tidbits

The Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles has released a bid announcement for the replacement of Automated Knowledge Testing at 79 of its service centers. Interested parties are encouraged to review the announcement for information on how to prepare and submit a proposal for replacement of the Automated Knowledge Test System used to administer testing to driver license applicants and dealer salesperson licenses by the DMV. The testing software must work seamlessly with Windows 7 and interface with the state's current Customer Flow Management application. Proposals must be accepted by 2:00 PM CST on October 16, 2012. *To read the full RFP and background information, [click here](#).*

The North Dakota Driver License Division is releasing an RFP for a Digital Driver License and Identification Card System today. The state's current over-the-counter 'instant issue' digital driver licensing system contract is set to expire on June 30, 2013. The state is requesting a turn-key, "instant issue" Digitized Driver's License system for image capture, storage, retrieval and card production based upon a firm, fixed price per driver license, permit, identification card, or badge ID successfully processed. You can find a copy of the RFP on the AAMVA website by clicking here. Proposals are due by November 7. *To access the RFP, [click here](#).*

### Region I News

#### **New DMV Report on Teen Driving Laws Improvements Continue, but More Work Needed** *(Connecticut)*

Both a recently completed parent survey as well as analysis of DMV teen driving laws show continued support for the tougher measures now four years old, but also the need for more parental outreach about how the laws work. These are the major findings in a newly compiled report, which for the first time includes a statewide survey of parents. DMV annually issues a report on crash and conviction data for teen drivers. This year it also included a review of parental sentiments toward the laws. [Review the report](#). A series of high-profile crashes in 2007 triggered an intensive nine-month public awareness and law-changing campaign aimed at these youngest and most inexperienced drivers on Connecticut roads. The report shows the continued progress being made thanks to the dedication of parents, teens and so many others around the state who share our goal of making the roads safe for everyone and preventing teen crashes and fatalities. DMV as well as safety advocates from around the state will be working to address issues raised in the report. The DMV Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Teen Safe Driving also has projects focused on helping to improve awareness of the teen safe driving laws. [Read the DMV press release](#).

#### **Introduction of Self-Service Kiosk is Latest Customer Benefit from DMV** *(Delaware)*

The continuing efforts of Delaware's DMV to provide the highest level of customer service is expanding with the introduction today of new self-service Kiosks in three locations. The kiosks are a way to provide users with a convenient and simple option to conduct basic DMV driver services such as driver license and ID card renewals, duplicates/replacements, or address changes. As part of the transaction the touch-screen Kiosk's also allow users to select an organ donor designation and the ability to confirm or update their voter registration status. Kiosks were funded with a federal Homeland Security Grant, were provided by MorphoTrust, and deployed in late July. The kiosks incorporate scanners, digital cameras and sophisticated back office technology allowing Delaware to

maintain a high level of security while speeding up the issuance process for customers who need replacement and renewal licenses. Customers who want to renew their license/ID place their old licenses on the scanner and look at the kiosk's camera. The kiosk first interfaces with the DMV mainframe to validate that the user is eligible to proceed, then compares the user's new image to the one already on file with the state. If all is correct, customers complete and pay for their transactions and take the receipts provided by the kiosk to the window of a secure processing room where they can retrieve their licenses. Data can also be entered by touch-screen if they do not have their license or have lost it. The entire process takes just a few minutes. Customers can bypass the kiosks entirely if they prefer and work with DMV employees to get the licenses they need. Users can also register to vote, change their addresses and register to be organ donors as a part of the Kiosk transaction. Future applications are broad and could include other functions such as hunting, fishing and park permits as well as vehicle registration depending on customer acceptance and state needs. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

#### **Ex-MVA Employees Admits to Taking Bribes to Provide Driver's Licenses (Maryland)**

Twenty-nine-year-old Michael Anthony Peters Jr. has pleaded guilty to producing and selling driver's licenses to those who had not passed the required tests day. He agreed to pay restitution of \$12,000 and will be sentenced on Dec. 18. According to his plea agreement, Peters worked for the Motor Vehicle Administration. In 2007, Peters admitted to receiving about \$300 as a bribe for each non-commercial driver's license and \$400 as a bribe for each commercial driver's license he issued to people who had not completed the required tests. Many of the people were in the U.S. illegally. [Read the full story in the Washington Post.](#)

#### **Maryland Tolling Agency, Lawmakers Pledge to go After Toll Cheaters (Maryland)**

Maryland's tolling agency is investigating whether it can publicize the names of the worst toll scofflaws in a "Hall of Shame" and resume suspending the vehicle registrations of repeat offenders. The chairman of the transportation panel will push legislation to target the thousands of motorists who are repeatedly blowing through E-ZPass lanes without a transponder and refusing to pay millions of dollars in unpaid tolls. Nearly 650,000 vehicle owners owe about \$6.7 million in unpaid Maryland tolls dating back five years. Nine rental car companies owe between \$80,000 and \$209,000 each. About 15,000 individual vehicle owners owe more than \$500 each. Because the MTA doesn't enforce the law's automatic \$50 citation for not paying a toll, the state hasn't suspended vehicle registrations of repeat violators since May 2010. The result: Scofflaws in Maryland face few consequences beyond a series of letters requesting payment. The MTA cannot enforce the state's 1994 tolling law because it wrongly assumes a "violator" to be any vehicle that doesn't pay at a toll plaza. The law doesn't allow for the recent advent of "video tolling," which allows motorists to use the E-ZPass lanes without an E-ZPass transponder and pay a higher toll rate later through the mail. Those motorists are in violation, Bartlett said, only if they don't pay the bill within 30 days, when a \$25 fee is tacked on. The proposed legislation would have defined violators as those without a transponder who fail to pay the bill by the due date. MTA staff have spoken with tolling officials in New Jersey about that state's "Wall of Shame," which lists the worst toll cheats by name and home town on the Internet. However, it appears that privacy protections in the electronic tolling law would be violated by such a law. The MTA also is examining whether it has any other legal options for pursuing chronic violators' vehicle registrations. [Read the full story in The Washington Post.](#)

#### **Registry of Motor Vehicle to Hold Plate Lottery Monday Night (Massachusetts)**

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Registry of Motor Vehicles will draw the winners of its annual Low Number License Plate Lottery Monday night. More than 7,500 applicants entered this year's drawing for a chance to win one of 124 of the most sought after Massachusetts license plates, including plate numbers 73, 295, 449, 493, 7755, and 1Z. The drawing for the annual Registry of Motor Vehicles Low Number License Plate Lottery will be held live on Nightside with Dan Rea on WBZ 1030 AM on Monday, Sept. 10 from 8-10 p.m. A list of

lottery winners will be available on the [Registry's website](#) on Tuesday afternoon and winners will receive official notification by mail. [Read the full story in the Framingham Patch.](#)

#### **Former DMV Clerk Sentenced for Illegal Sale of Driver's Licenses** *(New Jersey)*

Sonia Noel, 49, was sentenced to four years in state prison Friday for illegally selling driver's licenses while working as a clerk at the Jersey City Motor Vehicle Commission. She was ordered to pay \$3,000 in restitution and is permanently barred from public employment in New Jersey. Noel pleaded guilty on June 22 to second-degree conspiracy and admitted that, on more than one occasion in 2008, she entered false information into the MVC database in connection with sales of New Jersey driver's licenses to two people who did not have the required six points of identification. Noel's daughter, Melody Noel, 27, also a clerk at the MVC, pleaded guilty to third-degree tampering with public records or information, and admitted that she assisted in processing the application for one of the driver's licenses sold by her mother. Melody Noel was sentenced to two years of probation, 50 hours of community service, and a \$1,000 fine. She is also permanently barred from public employment in New Jersey. [Read the full story in the Hudson Reporter.](#)

#### **Score Yourself a Sports Plate and Some Extra Cash in Your Pocket** *(New Jersey)*

Sports enthusiasts wishing to show their pride on their ride will find it easier on their pocketbooks as the Motor Vehicle Commission announced it has substantially reduced the annual sports license plate renewal price from \$60 to \$25 – a customer savings of more than 50%. The reduction applies to all sports plate renewals beginning with those due this month. "This fee decrease is another positive move by the Christie Administration to reduce customer costs for motor vehicle services," said Raymond Martinez, MVC Chairman. In 2010, the MVC began offering 23 sports-themed license plates, which feature NFL, MLB, NHL, NBA and NASCAR logos, to the general public for \$60 each for the first year and a \$60 renewal fee thereafter. For those sports plate owners who may have paid an accelerated registration or have already renewed this month, they are encouraged to file for a pro-rated refund. Recently, the MVC announced a similar reduction related to online credit card processing fees for motor vehicle transactions. The MVC also kicked off its driver license and ID renewal by mail program late last week to further reduce lines in agencies by allowing customers born on or before Dec. 1, 1964 to Skip the Trip to their local agency. [Read the MVC press release.](#)

#### **Police to Get Access to DMV Records** *(New York)*

Police agencies across New York State will soon have instant access to your driving records from the DMV. It is part of a new initiative announced Wednesday by Governor Cuomo, which will provide law enforcement with a web portal where they can look up information about suspects through online DMV databases. Police will be able to search for photos of all New York State drivers and non-drivers, as well as vehicle registration information, and driving records. The new system is supposed to increase government efficiency, and make it easier to identify and arrest suspects. [Read the full story in WHAM.](#)

#### **Controversial Pennsylvania Voter I.D. Law Focus of State Supreme Court**

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court heard oral arguments Thursday regarding the state's voter I.D. law. It requires all voters to show a valid form of I.D. at polling places. Supporters argue it will help prevent voter fraud but opponents insist it will hurt the elderly, the poor and minorities. Justice Seamus McCaffery said, "If we can all agree there has been no voter fraud and that we can make sure no one is disenfranchised can we agree to wait on this for two Federal elections? Can we agree to make sure everyone has the chance to obtain a photo I.D. then we can proceed with this law? If a person can't get a photo I.D. in two or three years then shame on you!" A lower court Judge said there was not enough evidence to rule the law was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court Justices

did not give any indication as to how long it would take them to make a ruling but time is winding down the election is less than two months away. [Read the full story at PAhomepage.com.](#)

### **Pennsylvania Lawmakers Support Hand-Held Cell Phone Ban in Cars**

A Pennsylvania bill would mirror the state's new texting ban with regard to enforcement and penalties. The use of a hand-held cell phone while driving would become a primary offense with a \$50 fine, or a \$100 fine if driving in a school zone, work zone or highway safety corridor. Exceptions to the ban would include drivers using GPS devices, when their vehicles are stopped due to traffic obstructions and when initiating phone calls. The bill would also require DOT to develop a public education campaign to warn of the dangers of distracted driving. One lawmaker said "Our current ban on texting while driving is a step in the right direction, but it is woefully inadequate to protect people from drivers distracted by hand-held devices." According to PennDOT's estimates, more than 14,200 crashes in Pennsylvania in 2011 involved a distracted driver, with 58 people losing their lives in those crashes.

[Read the full story at Moon.Patch.com.](#)

## **Region II News**

### **New Alabama Law Cracks Down on Drunk Drivers**

One year ago Gov. Bentley signed legislation to get tough on drunk drivers. One of the stronger elements of the law that took effect at the first of this month requires many people convicted of DUI to install ignition locks on their vehicles that include a breathalyzer. The new law requires people convicted of drunk driving to install ignition locks on their vehicles. Before starting the car those drivers must exhale into a breathalyzer. If they've been drinking the lock will prevent the engine from starting. Offenders will have to pay \$75 a month for maintenance fees. In 2010 more than 13,000 drivers in Alabama were charged with driving under the influence. [Read the full story at WAAYTV.com.](#)

### **Governor Deal Forming Advisory Panel of Teen Drivers (Georgia)**

Gov. Nathan Deal is asking Georgia teenagers for advice on how to reduce crashes among the state's youngest drivers. Deal announced Monday he's forming a Governor's Commission on Teen Driving, an advisory panel that will include at least 15 members between the ages of 15 and 19. The commission, which will be overseen by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, will prepare reports to the governor outlining ideas for a statewide strategy to educate teen drivers on hazards such as drunken driving and texting and driving. Harris Blackburn, director of the highway safety office, says: "No one can advise our state on how to reach teenagers better than teenagers." [Read the full story in the Sacramento Bee.](#)

### **Ex-MVA Employees Admits to Taking Bribes to Provide Driver's Licenses (Maryland)**

Twenty-nine-year-old Michael Anthony Peters Jr. has pleaded guilty to producing and selling driver's licenses to those who had not passed the required tests day. He agreed to pay restitution of \$12,000 and will be sentenced on Dec. 18. According to his plea agreement, Peters worked for the Motor Vehicle Administration. In 2007, Peters admitted to receiving about \$300 as a bribe for each non-commercial driver's license and \$400 as a bribe for each commercial driver's license he issued to people who had not completed the required tests. Many of the people were in the U.S. illegally. [Read the full story in the Washington Post.](#)

### **DMV Offers New Driver License Test App (South Carolina)**

The South Carolina DMV announced today a new interactive driver license test application for iPhone, iTouch, iPad and Android devices. The driver license practice test can be downloaded free of charge at the iTunes store through the AppStore. The app is a practice test with questions very similar to those asked on the driver license knowledge

exam. The questions are tough and if you don't study the driver's manual, you won't pass the test. The practice test, developed with the help of SC.gov, provides customers with a convenient tool to use while they prepare for the "written" knowledge test. The exam offers a series of 15 randomly selected questions from more than 200 questions in the database. Each question is based on the information contained in the South Carolina Driver's Manual. Customers can take the practice test and see sample scores that will help them improve their chances of passing the driver license knowledge exam in the DMV office. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

### **Tennessee Shifting Driver's License Renewals to Self-Service Kiosks, iPads**

Tennessee residents needing to renew or replace their driver's licenses could be using self-service kiosks by November. People could be heading to such places as libraries, police precincts and county clerk's offices to use the kiosks. State officials also are in talks with a national retail outlet chain where some kiosks may be located. The goal is to give customers more options and easy access, as opposed to going to driver service centers. The intent is to keep such routine business as renewals, duplicates or replacement licenses away from the state's driver centers as much as possible. Out of the 4.6 million Tennesseans with driver's licenses, 745,000 each year are renewals. Officials hope to have 80% of the renewals done using the kiosks. Officials will be installing 40 self-service, stand-alone kiosks in urban areas that often have long lines of people waiting to conduct business. In addition to the kiosks, driver centers also have 72 iPads that are mostly self-service. With the iPad, residents can do almost all the work necessary but must know their driver's license numbers. Both self-service kiosks and the iPads will require a resident to have either a credit or debit card. Each of the 40 kiosks costs about \$45,000. It's part of phase one of a \$4 million project designed to make getting a driver's license less painful. The state driver center's workforce will remain the same size with no expected cutbacks. Each kiosk has high-tech facial recognition that even identical twins apparently can't fool. By next summer, Tennessee will roll out phase two of the \$4 million project, called EZ Visit. It will enable residents to do most of the work online and even have set appointments at a driver center. [Read the full story in the Insurance Journal.](#)

### **Texas Honored for Innovative System for Permitting and Routing Oversize/Overweight Trucks**

ITS America has honored the Texas DMV and the Texas DOT with a *Smart Solution Spotlight* award for a new Web-based tool that allows motor carriers to self-issue the permits and routes they need to move oversize and overweight loads on the state's highway system. The award honors companies and organizations for using innovative technology – known as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) – to create a safer, cleaner, more efficient and sustainable transportation system. The Texas Permitting and Routing Optimization System (TxPROS) earned the award in recognition of its use of "smart" technology to improve service, save time and resources, and keep loads and motorists safe. Trucks that move loads that are taller, longer, wider or heavier than legal limits must get a permit and – for many loads – a route from TxDMV. TxPROS is the first system to generate a route along with a map and turn-by-turn driving instructions customized to the size and weight of the load in "real time" using GIS. TxPROS allows trucking companies to apply for oversize/overweight permits, pay the fees and route their trucks on the best roads for a load's size and weight, all online, 24/7. The system is the first of its kind in the nation and so easy to use that customers have self-issued more than half of all permits since its launch in August 2011. TxPROS cost \$1.6 million and took four years of work with a software developer and coordination with the motor carrier industry. A recent survey shows that 96% of customers say TxPROS has benefitted their business. TxPROS also tracks oversize/overweight traffic by roadway segment to help TxDOT accurately forecast maintenance, design and funding needs. TxPROS will reduce damage to highway infrastructure long term and also will add funds to highway maintenance during a time when other sources of revenue have shrunk. The ITS America *Smart Solution Spotlight* award is presented to projects that have made a true impact to improve safety, enhance mobility and recognizes the best and most innovative uses of ITS to create a safe, efficient and

sustainable transportation system while still meeting increased customer needs. For more information on TxPROS, please visit [www.TxDMV.gov](http://www.TxDMV.gov). [Read the DMV press release.](#) **Congratulations to TXDMV and TXDOT!**

## Region III News

### **Groups Ask Judge to Halt Voter Fraud Investigation (Iowa)**

A judge heard arguments Thursday last week whether Iowa Secretary of State Matt Schultz exceeded his authority in a search for thousands of possible ineligible voters before November's election. Attorneys for the ACLU of Iowa and a Latino advocacy group, League of United Latin American Citizens, argued for an injunction to halt an effort to check identities against a federal immigration database to determine citizenship. The move is unnecessary and improper because no evidence of voter fraud exists and the rule creates fear and confusion for eligible voters, an attorney for the advocacy groups said. State attorneys, however, said the rule would expand due process because it creates an appeals process and the federal database reduces the risk of mistakes. Schultz's plans to investigate 3,582 possible non-U.S. citizens registered to vote in Iowa has thrust the state into a contentious national debate. [Read the full story in the Des Moines Register.](#)

### **Iowa Governor Allowing Overweight Loads for Harvest Season**

Gov. Terry E. Branstad signed a proclamation to allow the transportation of oversized and overweight loads of soybeans, corn, hay, straw, silage and stover. The proclamation took effect on Sept. 4, 2012 and expires after 60 days. This proclamation applies to loads transported on all highways within Iowa, excluding the interstate system, and which do not exceed a maximum of 90,000 pounds gross weight, do not exceed the maximum axle weight limit determined under the non-primary highway maximum gross weight table in Iowa Code section 321.463 paragraph "5.b", by more than twelve and one-half percent (12.5%), do not exceed the legal maximum axle weight limit of 20,000 pounds, and comply with posted limits on roads and bridges. This action is intended to allow vehicles transporting soybeans, corn, hay, straw, and stover to be oversized and overweight, not exceeding 90,000 pounds gross weight, without a permit, but only for the duration of this proclamation. [Read the full story at KCAUTV.com.](#)

### **70 Mph Limit Blamed in Increase of Iowa Highway Deaths**

Highway deaths are on the rise in Iowa since the state raised its speed limit from 65 mph to 70 mph in 2005, the Des Moines Register reports. State records show that fatalities on rural interstates have increased 10% even as the number of traffic deaths on the rest of the Iowa's road network have dropped to levels not seen since World War II. An aide from the office of Gov. Terry Branstad said there are no plans to change the limit, but the chief of the Iowa State Patrol says it is working with planners at DOT to target problem areas for enforcement, an effort hampered by budget cuts that have trimmed the number of troopers from 455 in 2000 to 396 today. According to the Register, a 2009 report from the American Journal of Public Health found that since the 1995 repeal of the national speed limit, deaths related to higher speed limits increased 3% nationwide and 9% on kind of rural interstates cited in the Iowa statistics. [Read the full story in Fox News.](#)

### **More Interlock Devices Used in Nebraska DUI Cases**

Nebraska is on pace to see a 20% increase in the number of ignition interlock devices issued in DUI cases, thanks to a new state law. The Lincoln Journal Star reports that the law also has reduced the number of so-called administrative license revocation hearings by 90%. Supporters of the law say those hearings dragged out cases for a year or more. The new law forces most people convicted of first- and second-offense DUI to have interlock devices installed. Drivers must exhale into the devices before the vehicles can be started. If a device detects alcohol at a pre-set level, the vehicle will not start. [Read the full story in the SF Chronicle.](#)

### **New Law Allows Electronic Proof of Insurance** *(California)*

Drivers in California will now be able to use their cell phones to show proof of insurance when being pulled over for traffic offenses. AB1708 is just one of dozens of bills signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on Friday, which goes into effect January 1, 2013. The new law will allow motorists to show electronic proof of insurance, whether it be a phone, iPad or other mobile device. California Highway Patrol says some motorists forget to put a hard copy of their proof of insurance in their glove compartments, while others may not store one altogether on fears someone may steal the paper with their address on it. [Read the full story at KCOY.com.](#)

### **Slain CHP Officer Kenyon Youngstrom Saves Four Lives by Donating His Organs** *(California)*

The slain California Highway Patrol officer described as "our hero" by his family has given new life to four hospital patients with his last heroic act. The kidneys, pancreas, liver and heart of Officer Kenyon Youngstrom were donated last week, per his wishes, saving one man and three women. One of the recipients waited more than a decade to receive a new organ. Youngstrom was shot Sept. 4 during a traffic stop and died the next day. The suspected shooter, Christopher Lacy, a 36-year-old software engineer, was shot to death moments later by another CHP officer. An estimated 4,000-plus turned out to mourn the officer, who was remembered for his love of family, quick smile, strong faith, "goofy faces," dedication and dream of becoming an officer. [Read the full story in the Contra Costa Times.](#)

### **Nevada Completes Online Voter Registration, DMV Can Update Addresses**

With just about four weeks until early voting begins, Nevada residents in all 17 counties can now register to vote and make changes to their current voter registration profile through [www.registertovotenv.gov](http://www.registertovotenv.gov) and [nvsos.gov/votersearch](http://nvsos.gov/votersearch). To use the online system, citizens need to be at least 18 years old and have a Nevada driver's license or identification card. The application process pulls the signature on file with the DMV and applies it to the voter's registration record, which will then be used for identification for all future elections. Additionally, the DMV is now able to forward address changes directly to the voter registrar database. If customer chooses to update their voter registration address, the technician simply checks a box in the DMV computer system.

### **Undocumented Immigrant Driving Law Fails to Reduce Number of Uninsured Drivers** *(New Mexico)*

When New Mexico began issuing driver's licenses to non-citizens in 2003, then-Governor Bill Richardson had argued the policy would reduce the high number of uninsured drivers in the state. Nearly a decade later, national statistics indicate the law failed to live up to its expectations. New Mexico continues to rank near the top of the list of states with the most uninsured drivers, consistently registering nearly twice the national average, according to the Insurance Research Council. In 2000, before the law went into effect, 26.3% of New Mexico drivers were uninsured. In 2008, that number had jumped to 29.5%, making the state number one in the country for uninsured drivers. By 2009, the last year figures were available, the state dropped to second place with 25.7% of its drivers uninsured. "If the policy is motivated by a lowering of uninsured motorists or decreasing accidents, I think it has had an insignificant effect," said J. Tim Query, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Risk Management and Insurance at New Mexico State University. "Being one of only two states, Washington being the other, that allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a state-issued driver's license increases the probability of fraud." "Fatalities have dropped in New Mexico, but they have also dropped nationwide, which includes 48 states that do not allow undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses," Query said. "What little accident data I've seen doesn't specifically point to the driver's license policy as a reason for any positive trends." An estimated 49,000 undocumented immigrants reside in New Mexico, and since the law went into effect some 80,000 licenses have been issued to foreign

nationals. Query said it is almost impossible to determine what percentage of drivers are undocumented and that New Mexico's high uninsured rate may be more directly related to its high level of poverty and unemployment rather than the license holder's immigration status. [Read the full story at Latino.Foxnews.com.](#)

### **Motorcycle Test Aimed At Improving Safety, Some Say New Version Is Harder** *(Washington)*

When Jeff Myers of Tacoma took his motorcycle test five years ago, he passed it the first time. He's failed the revamped test the state started giving Aug. 1 twice. He hasn't been told what caused him to lose the points needed to pass, but the only differences he's noticed between the old and new tests are several turns instructors have asked him to make this time around. Washington state has had more than 60 fatal motorcycle accidents so far this year. A 2006 study by the state's Motorcycle Safety Taskforce began the work that led to the new test. The group found that about 60% of motorcycle fatalities in the state were at least partly the result of the driver erroneously leaving his or her lane – mistakes that are mostly curve-related. The new test evaluates a driver's ability to take curves at a proper speed without veering outside marked lines. "It appears as though it's not as easy a test as the other one," a DOL spokesman said. "More people are having to take it more than once." But he said it's too early to pin down any specific trends with the new exam. Washington is the first state to implement the test for the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. [Read the full story in the Bellingham Herald.](#)

### **Some Driver and Vehicle Fees Increasing in October** *(Washington)*

Several fees related to driver and vehicle licensing charged by the Department of Licensing will increase on October 1. These fee increases, passed by the 2012 State Legislature, are required to continue to fund the operation and maintenance of the roads, streets, bridges, ferries, transit systems, and other services that make up our vital transportation system. The driver license fee will increase from \$25 to \$45. The ID card fee will go from \$20 to \$45. CDLs will increase from \$61 to \$85. Driver instruction permits will increase from \$20 to \$25. Driver license application/examination will go from \$20 to \$35. Duplicate driver licenses or ID cards will increase from \$15 to \$20. Abstract of driver's records will go from \$10 to \$13. DUI hearing (for administrative suspension) will increase from \$200 to \$375. Certificate of Ownership application (title) will go from \$5 to \$15. Original issue license plate (except motorcycle) goes from \$0 to \$10. Original issue motorcycle license plate goes from \$0 to \$4. Motorcycle replacement plates increase \$2 to \$4. Late title transfer penalty increases from \$25 to \$100 to \$50 to \$125. [Read the DOL press release.](#)

### **Proof of Legal Status Urged for Applicants for Driver's Licenses** *(Washington)*

Outgoing Secretary of State Sam Reed is urging state lawmakers to pass legislation next year requiring those applying for a driver's license or ID card in Washington to show proof of lawful presence. Reed's recommendation to the 2013 Legislature is based on the inability of his office to use a massive immigration database that election officials had hoped to use to scrub noncitizens from the state's voter-registration rolls. States that use Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements, or SAVE are able to search through 100 million names using so-called alien-registration numbers. These numbers, assigned to immigrants by DHS, typically accompany the documents that immigrants present as proof of lawful presence when applying for a license. But because the state does not require immigrants to provide proof of legal residence, it has no record of alien-registration numbers and therefore no way to access the SAVE system. Washington had tried to gain access to the SAVE program since launching its statewide voter-registration database in 2006, but DHS repeatedly denied the request, saying use of the system for scrubbing voter rolls was inappropriate. Government agencies use SAVE, a Web-based database, to determine the immigration status of applicants for benefits, so only those entitled can receive them. The state Legislature tried and failed in 2011 to pass legislation requiring legal proof of residence before granting a driver's license. [Read the full story in the Seattle Times.](#)



## Other News of Interest

### Study Looks at Driving Under Influence of Pot

Marijuana use, despite the legal implications, has been common in America for generations, and it's becoming even more widespread as some communities legalize it for medical purposes. But it wasn't until five years ago that NHTSA looked into its prevalence behind the wheel and found that 16.3% of the weekend nighttime drivers surveyed at 300 locations across the U.S. were drug positive. Cannabis stood out as the most commonly detected drug. But what the survey didn't show — and what authorities don't know — is how often drivers are impaired by the drugs, specifically marijuana. Some states prohibit drugged driving all together while others require proof of impairment, but few studies have actually analyzed the effects of cannabis behind the wheel — until now. NHTSA is teaming up with the National Institute on Drug Abuse to conduct the first study to analyze the effects of inhaled cannabis on driving performance. The study is taking place at the University of Iowa's National Advanced Driving Simulator, praised as being the most advanced simulator in the world, and pilot work is scheduled to begin later this month. The study will use about 20 volunteers, ages 21 to 55, who live within 40 miles of the UI and are able to make eight study visits — six of which will involve overnight stays. Medical marijuana is legal now in 17 states and Washington D.C., although it is illegal in all states to drive under the influence of any drug, regardless of whether it was prescribed by a physician, if the drug is causing impairment. Impairment can be difficult to prove, but 17 states — including Iowa — have passed "drug per se" laws that simply make it illegal to operate a vehicle with certain drugs in one's system. Most of those states, like Iowa, do not tolerate any amount of the prohibited drugs in a driver's system. The list of states with drug per se laws is growing, and there is a push for a federal pro se law that would create a blanket prohibition against driving with one of the prohibited drugs on board. Education, through studies like the one about to take place at Iowa, is expected to further the discussion about legislation and enable more-informed enforcement. It could even aid in the creation of an equivalent to the 0.08 blood alcohol content level set for driving. [Read the full story in the Lacrosse Tribune.](#)

### FBI's Facial Recognition Program: Better Security through Biometrics

The FBI is moving ahead with a nationwide facial recognition program scheduled to be fully deployed by 2014, according to *New Scientist* and testimony delivered to the Senate in July. The program could lead to faster, more efficient law enforcement--but nabbing crooks *after* a crime is only part of the appeal. The technology also foreshadows upcoming security enhancements that will stop many offenses before they start, including several that plague businesses. The new tools are part of the FBI's \$1 billion Next Generation Identification (NGI) program, a surveillance initiative built around biometric data. This data involves more than facial-recognition tools. Originally conceived to replace the bureau's aging fingerprint identification system, NGI also employs a 10-point fingerprint matching process that is 99% accurate. Other capabilities include the ability to deduce identities from palm prints, tattoos, and potentially even DNA. Some of these tools won't be widely deployed until NGI is fully operational in summer 2014, but the facial recognition is slowly proliferating. Michigan initiated a beta rollout in February, and at least 10 additional states have either begun testing or expressed interest. NGI's facial recognition tools can compare a query image to a database of 12.8 million mug shots. Such a large database should facilitate easier tracking of suspects who flee across jurisdictions, and research suggests the effects could be dramatic; 2010 tests found that facial recognition tools correctly identified individuals from a pool of 1.6 million mug shots with 92% accuracy. Newer versions could be even better. Researchers at Carnegie Mellon have developed algorithms that use 3-D modeling to more accurately divine identities from faces, and face detection is mature enough for primetime. [Read the full story in Information Week.](#)

Did you know . . .

The saying "God willing and the Creeks don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water. It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creeks don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creeks" it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

First immigrants OK'd for deportation deferral program CBS News September 12, 2012

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250\\_162-57511038/first-immigrants-okd-for-deportation-deferral-program/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250_162-57511038/first-immigrants-okd-for-deportation-deferral-program/)

(AP) WASHINGTON - Less than two months before a presidential election in which both parties are fighting for the key Hispanic vote, the Obama administration has approved the first wave of applications from young illegal immigrants hoping to avoid deportation and get a work permit.

The Homeland Security Department is notifying a small group of people this week that they have been approved to stay in the country for two years as part of President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. The first approvals come just three weeks after U.S.

Citizenship and Immigration Services started accepting applications for the program Mr. Obama and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano first announced June 15.

In an internal document obtained by The Associated Press, the government had estimated previously that it could take months for each application to be reviewed and approved. So far, about 72,000 people have applied to avoid deportation.

"Following a thorough, individualized case review, USCIS has now begun notifying individuals of the determination on their deferral requests,"

DHS spokesman Peter Boogaard said in a statement Tuesday.

DHS said background checks, including fingerprinting, are being conducted on each immigrant before an application can be approved. The average wait time for approval is expected to be about four months to six months.

Most applications for immigration benefits take several months for USCIS to process. In certain circumstances, people can pay extra fees to speed up the process. There currently is no such option for deferred action applications.

To be eligible for deferred deportation, applicants must have come to the U.S. before they turned 16, be 30 or younger, be high school graduates or in college, or have served in the military. The immigrants could not have a serious criminal record. Successful applicants can avoid deportation for up to two years and get a work permit.

Applicants must pay a \$465 paperwork fee that is expected to cover the cost of processing the work permit and fingerprint collection. Homeland Security has estimated that as many as 1.04 million immigrants could apply to avoid being deported in the program's first year, with about

890,000 being immediately eligible. According to the department document, it could cost between \$467 million and \$585 million to process applications in the first two years of the program, with revenues from fees estimated at \$484 million. That means the cost to the government could range from a gain of \$17 million to a loss of more than \$101 million.

The policy change came just months before what is shaping up to be a tight presidential election. Wooing Hispanic voters has been considered key to helping Mr. Obama win a second term.

The plan to halt deportations for as many as 1.7 million illegal immigrants closely mirrors the failed DREAM Act, a bill that would have provided a path to legalization for many of the same immigrants expected to benefit from the government's deferred action policy. The new policy does not provide legal status for the immigrants.

Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney has not said what he would do with the Obama policy if he is elected. He has previously pledged to veto the DREAM Act should it cross his desk. DREAM stands for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors.

Republicans have uniformly criticized Mr. Obama's policy, as well as previous DHS decisions to stop deporting many illegal immigrants who do not have criminal records or otherwise pose no threat to national security or public safety.

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, has derided the policy as "backdoor amnesty."

"It's astounding that the president's administration can move so quickly to grant work authorization to illegal immigrants yet his jobs council hasn't met in over eight months to find solutions to put unemployed Americans back to work," Smith said Tuesday. "Such a quick turnaround for these amnesty applications raises serious concerns about fraud and a lack of thorough background checks. President Obama and his administration continue to put illegal immigrants ahead of the interests of the American people."

Last month, a group of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents sued the department in federal court in Dallas, accusing the administration of violating federal law and forcing ICE employees to break the law by not arresting certain illegal immigrants. Napolitano and ICE Director John Morton were named as defendants.

An informal adviser to Romney on immigration, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, filed the suit on behalf of the agents.

"It places ICE agents in an untenable position where their political superiors are ordering them to violate federal law," Kobach said at the time. "If they follow federal law, they will be disciplined by their superiors."

On Tuesday, Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., sent a letter to Morton questioning the new policy and how it is being implemented. He cited reports of immigration officers being threatened with punishment for trying to enforce immigration laws, an allegation outlined in Kobach's suit.

"The speed at which the deferrals are being granted continues to raise severe concerns about fraud and the administration's ability to verify items like age of entry, educational status and even current age,"

Sessions said. "But the bigger issue is that the administration has effectively nullified existing federal law with the stroke of a pen.

Moreover, it is a pure fiction that its non-enforcement policy is limited to those theoretically eligible for DREAM."