

AAMVA Regional News

September 29, 2012

Tidbits

- Congratulations and best wishes to California DMV Director George Valverde who has announced his retirement after 36 years of state service. As of October 31 George will become a man of leisure. He has been very active in AAMVA and has served as both Region IV President and Chairman of the Board. Enjoy your retirement George! We will miss you!!
- As of 09/19/12 Arizona no longer accepts an out of state driver license as a primary document to establish authorized presence. It will continued to be accepted as a secondary document for identification purposes and for waiving the Arizona driver license knowledge and skills testing requirements
- The proposal has received some ridicule, but a new poll shows New Jersey voters support the idea of requiring pets to be in crates or safety restraints when they ride in cars. A poll found that 45% of registered voters favored the law and 40% opposed it. The bill was introduced in July. People letting their dogs or cats run free in their vehicles could be fined \$20.

Region I News

DMV To Start Issuing Seven-Digit Vanity Plates Next Fall (Connecticut)

By this time next year, Connecticut drivers who want vanity plates will have seven characters to work with, instead of the current six. The state legislature authorized \$26 million to upgrade the DMV's aging computer system. The seven-character plate is one result of that upgrade. A state-sponsored study more than 10 years ago indicated the potential for multimillion dollars in revenue because of a public desire for them at the time. Passenger car plates, the most common type, started being issued with six spaces - three numbers and three letters - in 1980. Some 32 years later, the department has reached the point where the letter portion starts with the letter Z. The DMV expects those plates to run out by early next year. After the last three-number, three-letter plate is issued, the department will start issuing plates with two numbers, two letters and two numbers; the same format as the current combination plates. The current six-character, standard plates will be issued alongside the new seven-character vanity plates, opening up new options for motorists. The state now charges \$94 to \$148 for vanity plates over and above the standard fee, depending on whether it's a standard passenger or a specialty configuration. The state is planning on a clean changeover so that all branches start issuing seven-character plates at the same time. [Read the full story in the Hartford Courant.](#)

New Law Starting Monday Gives More Protection to Consumers Buying Used Cars (Connecticut)

A new law starting Monday helps to ensure consumers get the proper state-required safety check on used cars they purchase at a dealership. The law requires dealers to sign off on a specific form that clearly identifies items, which state law already requires to be checked prior to sale. In the past some dealers have not done as thorough a check on vehicles as state law requires. The new law helps to protect consumers in the future from those situations where a few dealers have not done the checks as required. Among the items the state has required to be checked and now must be signed off as checked are service brakes, parking break, tires/wheels, steering system, suspension, frame/chasis , exhaust, fuel system, headlights, stop/turn lights, miscellaneous lights, wiper/washer. Dealers now must obtain the consumer's signature on the form and consumers should ask for a copy. Dealers must retain a copy for review by DMV. A dealership owner faces arrest and fines up to \$2,000 for not doing the safety inspection or signing off on the form when the inspection was not done. Prior to the new law, dealerships made their own forms and kept their own records. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

DMV Receives 99% Approval and Recommendation Rating for Test Center in Cheshire (Connecticut)

A consistent record of nearly 99% of customers approve of and would recommendation to others DMV's online learner's permit appointment system and test center in Cheshire that opened four months ago. The results come from survey completed by more than 3,000 people using the new center. They also gave DMV high approval ratings in the areas waiting times, customer service, and overall satisfaction regarding the center and appointment system. The new learner's permit test center opened in May as a pilot program. It is designed to improve efficiency and customer service while also providing an alternative to waiting in line at a DMV branch office. It is part of a multi-million effort at the DMV to better integrate technology, achieve taxpayer savings, and make government more responsive. Now 16- or 17-year-olds statewide or their parents can schedule an appointment online for taking the learner's permit test in Cheshire. The new center also offers flexible hours to better meet family demands. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

Official Sold Fake Licenses to Illegal Immigrants (Maryland)

A former Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration employee pleaded guilty on Sept. 7 to a conspiracy to produce and sell counterfeit Maryland driver's licenses, some of which were for illegal immigrants. Michael Anthony Peters, 29, admitted to accepting bribes of \$300 and \$400 for producing illegal noncommercial and commercial driver's licenses between July and October 2007 while working at the Largo MVA. Authorities said Peters would falsify state records to indicate a person had passed the tests required to receive a Maryland driver's license. Many of the persons who purchased driver's licenses from Peters were illegal immigrants. During the time that Peters was involved in the conspiracy, he produced at least 40 Maryland driver's licenses. Peters worked with two unnamed co-conspirators, who would direct persons to bypass the MVA's waiting process and go directly to Peters' teller window, where he would falsify records and issue the illegal licenses. Most of those who bribed Peters had failed either the written test, driving test or both, in some cases multiple times. In one sale on or about Oct. 16, 2007, a person who had failed to pass the written driver's test paid Peters \$500 to produce and sell a driver's license. A driver's license for a new resident in Maryland costs \$45. Those that purchased driver's licenses illegally were identified in the MVA's customer transaction system and notified that they must return to the MVA to obtain a license lawfully. Peters' faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years of supervised probation following his release from jail. Peters is also required to pay \$12,000 in restitution as a part of his plea deal. [Read the full story in the Washington Examiner.](#)

Scooter Helmet Law to Take Effect (Maryland)

Beginning Monday, mo-ped and scooter drivers who live in Maryland will be obligated to wear a helmet, as well as some kind of eye protection. They also, for \$20, will have to title their scooters through the state Motor Vehicle Administration, according to a new state law. And don't forget the \$5 decal that shows it's registered. Both are available online. Scooter drivers must have either a valid drivers license or a mo-ped/scooter permit. It is a misdemeanor offense if a scooter driver is caught without a helmet or eye protection/windscreen. Offenders are subject to a maximum fine of up to \$500. With about 3,500 motor scooters are in operation in Maryland, the changes will bring a negligible amount of revenue to the state. Between fees for decals, titles, liens, sales tax and excise tax revenue, the state will realize about \$194,000 in net revenue. A policy analysis also shows that mandatory helmet use for scooter drivers may help generate "significant savings" for the state's department of Health and Mental Hygiene. People who suffer from traumatic brain injuries often end up in state psychiatric institutions or community-based hospitals, costing Medicaid about \$120,000 annually in treatment services. That analysis did not estimate the number of preventable injuries. Scooters are only permitted by law to travel 30 mph. [Read the full story in Del Marva Now.](#)

ACLU Sues in Massachusetts over License Plate Reader Data

The American Civil Liberties Union sued two federal agencies on Tuesday to try to force them to answer questions about how they use data from automatic license plate readers. The complaint was filed against DOJ and DHS in federal court in Boston. It demands that the departments "immediately and expeditiously" respond to the ACLU's public information requests, made under FOIA in July. The license plate readers are mounted on patrol cars or other objects and photograph the plates of vehicles

that pass _ up to 1,800 plates per minute. The information is then checked against plates in various government databases and can assist law enforcement authorities in fighting crime by, for instance, tracking down stolen cars or locating children through Amber Alerts. Officials say the data also can help fight terrorism. But the ACLU says it has concerns about how the information is used, including how long it's stored, how it's secured, who shares the information and whether it's used to track the movements of people who aren't suspected of wrongdoing. Law enforcement officials have said they use the data only to solve crimes. The ACLU, in its complaint, said the plate readers are largely unregulated, with Maine and New Hampshire the only states with laws that limit how law enforcement can use them. ACLU affiliates in 38 states filed records requests in July with state and local police to find out how they were using the data. The national ACLU filed the requests with federal agencies, including Justice and Homeland Security. Tuesday's complaint was filed in Boston because that's where the attorneys working on it are located. An ACLU spokesman said state affiliates may file similar complaints in state court in areas where authorities don't respond. [Read the full story in the Hartford Courant.](#)

Choose Life License Plates Reach Goal (Massachusetts)

After a nine year journey, the Choose Life license plates reached their destination. In August, the plates cruised past the goal of 3,000 on Massachusetts highways. The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles holds the bond until a total of 3,000 vanity plates are registered. Last month, the registry announced that Choose Life had 3,054 plates and that they would release the bond. Over the past two years, the plates raised over \$170,000, and 3,000 plates will bring in \$60,000 annually. Massachusetts became the 25th state to offer the Choose Life plates when the plates hit the road in July of 2010. The cost of the plates is \$90 every two years -- \$50 is the usual registration fee and \$40 a tax deductible donation. The first year, there is a \$12 charge for the plate. Nationwide, the plates have raised over \$14 million for Pro-Life causes. [Read the full story in the Boston Pilot.](#)



New Hampshire DMV Offices Getting Video Surveillance Systems

New Hampshire is installing video surveillance systems at its motor vehicle registration offices in an effort combat licensing fraud. The DMV says \$465,000 in federal Homeland Security funding will pay for video security at motor vehicles offices throughout the state. An earlier round of funding previously paid for surveillance systems in Concord and Manchester. [Read the full story in Fosters Daily Democrat.](#)

DMV Won't Relicense Repeat Drunken Drivers in New York

New York officials issued regulations Tuesday to prevent persistent drunken drivers from getting their licenses back. Under the new rules, the DMV will review the lifetime records of drivers seeking reinstatement after a revocation and deny any that have five or more alcohol- or drug-related driving convictions. Each year, more than 300 people are killed and more than 6,000 injured on New York highways as a direct result of alcohol-related crashes. More than 25% of those crashes involved a driver who had three or more drunk driving convictions. The DMV is also supposed to deny relicensing for anyone with three or more such convictions and at least one serious driving offense within the last 25 years, such as a fatal crash or driving-related penal conviction. Drunken drivers whose licenses have been revoked or suspended for six months or a year will no longer be able to get privileges back in seven weeks by completing an education program. The changes are expected to affect an estimated 20,000 drivers this year. The emergency regulations were issued Tuesday and will apply going forward. More than 50,000 drivers with valid or suspended licenses have three or more alcohol-related convictions in their lifetimes. Some 17,500 licensed drivers with at least three convictions accounted for more than 22,000 later crashes causing injuries and 500 fatalities. [Read the full story in the Street Journal](#)

Special License Plates for NY Judges are Ethical: Panel (New York)

The use of special license plates by New York judges is ethical, a state ethics panel has concluded, as the state Commission on Judicial Conduct nears completion on a review of whether judges use the plates to avoid traffic tickets. In a three-paragraph opinion released last week, the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics said that while it is improper for judges to use the "prestige" of their office to advance private interests, special license plates do not rise to that level. The decision was prompted by an inquiry from an unnamed judge. "The otherwise lawful display of a license plate duly issued by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles is not rendered ethically impermissible merely because the license plate indicates that the vehicle registrant is a judge," wrote the 26-member panel. Judges may apply for the license plates in the same way that any driver can obtain vanity plates. The plates display the name of the court on which the judge sits, along with a designate number. [Read the full story at ThomsonReuters.](#)

Translator Gave Drivers the Answers During Their License Tests (Pennsylvania)

An interpreter who gave immigrants driving lessons is charged with also giving them answers to their PennDOT driving test. Mostafa Wadud Jamal, 45, of Monroe Drive in Towamencin, is charged with 12 counts of tampering with public records, six counts of obstruction of justice, six counts of false swearing and six counts of making an unsworn falsification to authorities by forging or altering documents. Jamal was an official interpreter for PennDOT through the Lutheran Children and Family Services agency and spoke Hindu, Bengali and Urdu. He also owns and operates his own driving school, Deshi Driving School. As part of his services, Jamal sat with test-takers and translated the English language tests into Hindu, Bengali and Urdu. State police got a tip that Jamal was providing people with answers during the driving tests and began investigating in June. Jamal arranged to meet an undercover state trooper posing as a client in the Huntingdon Valley area. The trooper was fluent in a foreign language and pretended not to know English. The agreement with Jamal was that the undercover trooper would bring \$644.50 with him to cover cash for Jamal and fees to get the license. Jamal drove them to the New World Association of Emigrants from Eastern Europe in Philadelphia. There, they met with an employee of LCFS who collected \$130 and provided Jamal with a letter stating he was a valid interpreter and was assigned to translate for the client. Jamal then drove himself and the undercover trooper to the Huntingdon Valley Driver's Licensing Center. Jamal read the questions in English without translating and then told the undercover trooper which answers to pick. Following the exam, Jamal took \$480 in payment for his services. In addition to the undercover investigation, state police, working with the FBI, found five more people who said they were given correct answers to the driving test by Jamal in exchange for \$500. [Read the full story in the Philly Burbs.](#)

New Law Penalizes Motorists for Ignoring Traffic Control Signs, Devices (Pennsylvania)

A new state law imposing stiff penalties on motorists who ignore "road closed" or other safety warning signs and devices is now in effect. Act 114 reinforces the critical need for all drivers to obey traffic control signs. The law aims to increase safety for motorists and emergency responders in areas where flooding or other hazardous conditions exist. Under the law, motorists who drive around or through signs or traffic control devices closing a road or highway due to hazardous conditions will have two points added to their driving records and be fined up to \$250. If the violation results in a need for emergency responders to be called, the fine is increased to between \$250 and \$500. In addition, violators will be held liable for repaying the costs of staging the emergency response. [Read the full story at PR Newswire.](#)

Pennsylvania Voter ID Judge Suggests Striking Part of Law

A judge considering a challenge to a politically charged Pennsylvania law that requires voters to show photo identification suggested Thursday he may strike part of it so that someone who doesn't have a valid ID at the polls can cast a provisional ballot that will still count without getting one. Judge Robert Simpson made the suggestion toward the end of a hearing on the issue, and lawyers for the plaintiffs seeking to halt enforcement of the entire law before the Nov. 6 presidential election quickly protested it, saying it could cause even more problems and confusion. Simpson said he was seeking a way to target "the part of the act that's the offending activity, the disenfranchising part." Under the new law, someone who does not have a valid ID at the polls can cast a provisional ballot, but it won't count unless they show a valid photo ID to county election

officials within six days of the election. What Simpson seems to be considering would excuse a voter without valid ID at the polls from having to get it and show it later. The constitutionality of the law is not a question in front of Simpson. Instead, the judge is under orders from the state Supreme Court to issue an injunction of the law for this year's election if he finds the state has not met the law's promise of providing free and easy access to a photo ID or if he believes it will prevent any registered voters from casting a ballot. Simpson must rule by Tuesday, just five weeks before the election. If Simpson follows through on his suggestion, it would effectively hand a victory to the state by leaving most of the 6-month-old law intact for the election, and the entire law intact for every election afterward. [Read the full story in the Sun Gazette.](#)

Region II News

New System Designed To Catch 900,000 Alabama Drivers without Insurance

A driver's chances of being hit by an uninsured motorist in Alabama may go down after Jan. 1. That is when a new system will start cracking down on the 900,000 Alabama vehicles without insurance. The system will verify within a few seconds whether a motorist is abiding by the state's law requiring liability insurance. County license plate offices will verify insurance information when issuing or renewing car tags. Police will do it when they stop cars for traffic offenses. And the state Revenue Department will do random computer checks to find motorists who have dropped their insurance. Then it will contact the motorists, who must provide proof of insurance or risk getting their vehicle registration suspended. Driving without insurance results in a fine of up to \$500 for a first offense and \$1,000 for a subsequent offense. It can also result in suspension of the vehicle's registration. Reinstating it will cost \$200 for the first violation and \$400 for subsequent violations. The Alabama Legislature passed a law in 2000 to require motorists to carry liability insurance. The Insurance Research Council estimates that 22% of Alabama's more than 4 million private vehicles don't follow the law, which is the sixth-highest rate of any state. In 2011, the Legislature passed a law to crack down on the violators. It resulted in the new system that will allow a police officer who runs information on a car tag to find out at the same time whether the car has insurance. Before stepping out of a patrol car to write a speeding ticket, the officer will also know whether to write a ticket for driving without insurance. Revenue has been testing the system in the Winston County probate judge's office. Public reaction has been overwhelmingly favorable. When the system shows that someone doesn't have insurance, Moore and her staff explain how the cost of a ticket and the registration reinstatement are much more expensive than buying basic liability insurance. Most people leave, buy insurance and return in compliance with the law. If motorists drop the insurance after one month, the department's random computer checks to find them and take action. With the new system, the random checks will be done by computer rather than letter. Alabama is taking a cheaper approach through an Internet-based system that allows a tag official or police officer to enter information and get a response from an insurance company in two or three seconds. Implementing the new system has cost about \$150,000. The goal is to reduce the number of uninsured motorists to less than 10% of all drivers. [Read the full story in The Republic.](#)

Alabama Pediatricians Enlisted to Fight Teen Driver Fatalities

Alabama pediatricians will start distributing information about safe driving habits to their teenage patients and the patients parents as part of a new effort to combat teen driver fatalities. A 2008 study by Allstate Insurance ranked the state the second most dangerous in the country for teen drivers, just behind Mississippi. The Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics was one of eight groups nationwide to receive a safe driving grant from the Allstate Foundation to help combat that problem. Under a 2010 law, it is illegal for a 16-year-old driver (and 17-year-old drivers who have been licensed less than six months) to drive with more than one non-family member passenger. Those drivers also cannot drive between midnight and 6 a.m. unless they are with an adult, going to or from work, a school event or a church event. There are also exemptions for emergencies or if the driver is going hunting or fishing with the appropriate license. To spread awareness of that law, the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics will use the \$25,000 Allstate grant to distribute a "tool kit" of safe driving information to doctors at a conference starting Friday. The kit includes a driving log for parents and teens to keep track of how often the teen practices driving with the parents. It is recommended teens with driver's permits drive for 50 hours

before obtaining a license or driving alone. The kit also contains a driving agreement outlining what teen drivers will and won't do behind the wheel. [Read the full story at AL.com.](#)

Special Driver's License Designation Now Available for Kentucky Veterans

Military veterans who are renewing Kentucky driver's licenses will be able to have a special designation printed on the license. The General Assembly this year authorized the designation, and the required programming for circuit court clerks' offices was finished on Monday. If the driver's license holder chooses, the word "veteran" will be printed vertically and in capital letters along the right border of the photo. To obtain the designation, a veteran has to provide the clerk's office with the Defense Department form that verifies service, DD214. Veterans who had to renew a license after July 12, when the new legislation became law, but before the programming was available this week can have the license reprinted at no cost through Dec. 31. [Read the full story in The Republic.](#)

Mississippi License Plates to Get a New Look

Starting October 1 plates will feature the slogan "Birthplace of America's Music" and B.B. King's signature guitar, Lucille. The words "Celebrating Mississippi's Creative Culture" surround the guitar. The new tag replaces the Biloxi Lighthouse, which debuted in 2007 to commemorate the Gulf Coast's resilience in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Mississippi changes its tag every five years. [Read the full story at Fox 40 TV.](#)



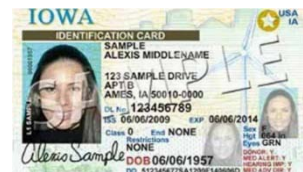
Region III News

2,000,000 Registration Renewals Completed Online (Indiana)

Officials at the Indiana BMV report a record number of customers using the myBMV.com website to complete transactions. Last Thursday BMV customers completed the 2,000,000th online renewal of 2012 vehicle registrations. When combined with renewals by mail, by phone through the BMV Customer Contact Center and through BMV partner locations, more than 70% of all registration renewals for 2012 have been completed outside of a license branch. As a result of the reduced number of registration renewal customers in the license branches, the branch associates are able to better service those customers who must visit a branch to complete a more complicated transaction, especially this year with the record number of customers needing to renew their driver's licenses. The popularity of the "customer choices" and the outstanding service in the license branches have contributed to the BMV's most recent overall customer satisfaction rating of 96.3%.

Iowa Implementing National REAL ID Cards

Anyone trying to get through airport security or access to a government facility in Iowa will eventually be required to have a national REAL ID identification card. The federal identification card system is a reality for Iowa starting January 15, 2013. Starting then, Iowa residents will have the option of getting a REAL ID non-motorist identification card or a REAL ID driver's license if they meet state requirements for driving. To get a REAL ID card, applicants must show proof of their full legal name, date of birth, social security number and home address. The REAL ID Act requires states to keep paper or digital copies of those proof of identity documents. For now, Iowans with a non-REAL ID driver's license can decide whether to get the new one or keep their existing license. People born after December 1, 1964 will be required to get a REAL ID card to pass through screening at airports and government facilities as of December 2014. Iowa adopted the system with final approval in September 2012. [Read the full story at WQAD.com.](#)



Some Driver Responsibility Fees End October 1 (Michigan)

The elimination of Driver Responsibility Fees for lesser driving offenses goes into effect Monday. Public Act 255 of 2011 does away with \$150 driver responsibility fees, charged for two consecutive years, for the following violations, committed on or after Oct. 1: operating a motor vehicle with an expired operator's or chauffer's license, operating without a valid license, having more than one license and failing to surrender licenses from other states. The law also eliminates \$200 driver responsibility fees, charged for two consecutive years, for these violations, committed on or after Oct. 1: failing to have mandatory motor vehicle insurance coverage; failure to produce proof of insurance and knowingly providing false evidence of insurance. Drivers who owe these fees for offenses committed before Oct. 1 still will be responsible for paying them. Other driver responsibility fees of \$500 and \$1,000 for two consecutive years for a variety of more serious motor vehicle offenses, including alcohol-related, controlled substance and reckless driving violations, remain in place. [Read the SOS press release.](#)

Sale of New Plate to Benefit Lake Erie (Ohio)

Ohio drivers will have another choice of license plates this spring when the Ohio Lake Erie Commission unveils its new Lake Erie plate. License plate sales will continue to benefit research projects and work to improve the health of Lake Erie. The commission will come up with a new image for the plate, and will continue to sell the current Lake Erie plate design. The Lake Erie plate was unveiled in 1995 and was the first specialty logo plate to benefit an organization. In 2011, 16,071 Lake Erie plates were sold. That puts the Lake Erie plate in the top three most popular, behind collegiate plates and the wildlife plate. The commission has received \$220,000 this year from the Lake Erie plate. That's down from its high of more than \$900,000 in the '90s. Money from plate sales has been used to pay for everything from study of harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie to retrofitting storm sewer systems. [Read the full story in The News-Messenger.](#)

Panel Recommends Restrictions on Young Drivers (South Dakota)

South Dakota should prohibit young drivers from using cell phones while behind the wheel and make those with learners' permits wait longer before driving unaccompanied by an adult, a state panel recommended Monday. The Teen Driving Task Force, created by the Legislature, also recommended setting up a coordinated drivers' education system with statewide standards for course content, instruction, testing and certification of instructors. The panel's recommendations will be submitted to the 2013 session of the South Dakota Legislature, which convenes in January. Task force members said South Dakota has one of the nation's highest rates of fatal crashes among young drivers, and young South Dakota drivers are more likely to have accidents than older drivers are. For example, 16- and 17-year-old drivers represented just 2.7% of all South Dakota drivers in 2011, but accounted for 5.9% of crashes involving deaths or injuries. South Dakota law allows instruction permits to be issued at age 14, the youngest age in the nation for driving while accompanied by an adult, most often a parent. Those young drivers can graduate to restricted permits that allow them to drive alone in the daytime after six months, or just 90 days if they have completed a drivers' education course. The task force is recommending that beginning drivers should have to keep instruction permits for a year before moving to restricted permits that allow them to drive alone. Those who complete drivers' education courses could move to restricted permits after nine months. Young drivers can get regular licenses at 16 if they pass a written test and a driving test and have no traffic violations in the past six months. Those provisions would not be changed by the task force's recommendations. Another proposal would prevent those with instruction or restricted permits from using cell phones or other electronic devices while driving. The Legislature has rejected bills to ban texting while driving in recent years, but task force members said lawmakers might impose restrictions on teen drivers. The task force also will recommend limits on the number of unrelated minors who can be passengers in a car driven by a teen with a restricted permit. Those limits would be eased for trips to school or school events. [Read the full story in the Rapid City Journal.](#)

Wisconsin Seeks New Ideas for Registration Products

The Wisconsin DMV is looking for creative ideas to modernize motor vehicle registration products, enhance product security and integrity, and reduce long-term costs. To that end, they have just released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input from industry experts. The products under review are: Certificate of Registration, Expiration Stickers, License Plates, and Temporary Plates. Ideas and solutions can include changes to technology, printing solutions or other creative suggestions. The project is a result of the 2012 Wisconsin state legislative session, in which the Joint Committee on Finance passed a motion directing DMV to undertake a comprehensive study of registration renewal products and make recommendations for improvement. To read the full RFI and background information, [click here](#).

Region IV News

State Won't Issue Licenses to Illegal Immigrants (Arizona)

Arizona officials will not issue driver licenses to illegal immigrants granted work permits under President Barack Obama's deferred-action program. The decision by DOT is consistent with Gov. Jan Brewer's Aug. 15 executive order telling state agencies to deny driver's licenses and other benefits to those granted deferrals. Arizona law allows only legal residents to get a driver's license or identification cards. DHS officials have repeatedly stated that deferred action doesn't grant legal status. The decision angered advocates who believe illegal immigrants granted deferred action should be able to get licenses so they can legally drive to work or school. The state may face a lawsuit from civil-rights groups who say preventing illegal immigrants granted deferred action from getting driver's licenses violates state law. Arizona law requires that only people living in the country legally can be issued a driver's license or identification card. Since U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials have said deferred action does not give illegal immigrants legal status, their work permits "are insufficient for the purpose of obtaining an Arizona driver license or identification card." [Read the full story in the Mohave Desert Daily News.](#)

"Honoring Veterans" License Plates Available to California Residents

"Honoring Veterans" license are now available to all California motorists and are customized with the distinctive military branch or veteran service organization logo of choice. Proceeds from the sale of these plates support efforts of the CalVet and 56 County Veteran Services Offices to connect veterans and their families with the benefits they've earned through military service. Sequential veteran license plates are \$30* a year (in addition to regular DMV fees). For an additional one-time \$10 fee, personalized "vanity" plates can be ordered. To purchase your veteran license plate, go to www.cacvso.org. The fee will be raised to \$50 January 1, 2013. [Read the full story at Sierra Sun Times.](#)

New State Park Passport is \$10 Annual Bargain You Can Add On Vehicle Fee (Idaho)

A new check off box on the state's vehicle registration form will allow resident to get an annual park pass for a mere \$10 extra. The program starts October 1. Parks officials are hoping the new program, borrowed from other states like Michigan, will encourage residents to support their parks. Currently you have to either purchase an annual \$40 pass or pay a daily \$5 fee to enter or launch a boat. Two visits and you recover the investment. Passes go on sale October 1 with new license plates and will be in the form of a sticker that goes on the windshield of your vehicle—one vehicle per sticker. It will take a few months for the renewal registrations and the annual passes to get into synch, but even in a worse case scenario the most you can spend is \$20. The passes will expire along with vehicle registration. [Read the full story in the Boise Guardian.](#)

Court Limits DWI License Revocation (New Mexico)

For a year and a half, the MVD could take away your driver's license administratively even if the police officer didn't have reasonable suspicion to pull you over. That changed this summer with a decision by the state Supreme Court. In its unanimous opinion in Schuster vs. State of New Mexico, the high court ruled that "MVD must find the arrest and underlying police activity leading to the arrest are constitutional as a prerequisite to revoking a driver's license." Upon arrest for DWI in New Mexico, two processes start: one is criminal, overseen by a judge and requires the state to find someone guilty beyond a reasonable

doubt for a conviction; the other is administrative, overseen by a state hearing officer and requires a 51% finding of guilt to strip someone's driving privilege. And in the case of Eric Schuster, who was arrested on suspicion of DWI outside a Farmington bar in May 2009, the officer did have reasonable suspicion to investigate Schuster for drunken driving and probable cause to arrest him, according to the court's opinion. So the court upheld MVD's mandatory one-year revocation of Schuster's driver's license. The saga began in January 2011 when the state Court of Appeals ruled in Glynn vs. State of New Mexico that the constitutionality of an arrest need not be considered in MVD's administrative license revocation hearings. The argument made to the Supreme Court was essentially that the Legislature would never have contemplated that illegal arrests would be sufficient to take away someone's driver's license. The court agreed. Moreover, they pointed out in his opinion that at least five other states require constitutional arrests to revoke a driver's license. A 1966 opinion from the U.S. Supreme Court was cited to support their interpretation of New Mexico law. Criminal punishments can vary from probation to mandated alcohol treatment to jail time. Administrative penalties include loss of driving privileges. [Read the full story in the Albuquerque Journal.](#)

C. Oregon Effort Creates 'Keep Kids Safe' Plates

The Deschutes County Children and Families Commission announced Monday the October release of the non-profit license plate, Keep Kids Safe, the product of a local effort years in the making. Oregon citizens are encouraged to purchase the license plate, which is expected to generate a sustainable source of revenue for proven child abuse prevention efforts across Oregon's 36 counties. The license plate is the result of a home-grown, citizen led effort. The license plate is a response to the dramatic child abuse statistics in Oregon. More than 11,000 Oregon children were confirmed victims of abuse in 2010, or the equivalent of more than 170 school buses full of children. Nearly half of these children were under the age of 6. The surcharge for the new Keep Kids Safe license plate is collected at issuance (\$30 for a two-year registration period or \$60 for a four-year new vehicle registration period and \$30 at each subsequent renewal). The surcharge is in addition to other vehicle registration and plate fees. Applications and fees for the Keep Kids Safe plate will be accepted at Oregon DMV field offices or through the mail to DMV Headquarters beginning October 15th. DMV field offices will not have these plates on hand but can accept the application and fees. [Read the full story at KTVZ.com.](#)

SGI Expands Specialty Plate Options to Offer Veterans Plates for Motorcycles and Snowmobiles (Saskatchewan)

Saskatchewan's veterans can soon get specialty license plates for their motorcycles and snowmobiles. As of October 1, veterans can apply for the new, smaller veteran's plates for these vehicles. Each of the licence plates will be a smaller version of the regular-sized licence plates, and will portray the same design. The characters will include a "V" followed by three numbers. The plates can also be personalized, as long as the slogan is four characters or fewer. Veteran plates are available to any person who has honourably served, or is still serving, as a member of the Canadian Forces for a minimum of three years, or has served a tour of duty as a member of the Canadian Forces, Reserve Forces, the Merchant Navy, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, another Canadian police force or an allied force. The cost of veteran licence plates is \$5, payable to the Legion, to cover the application cost. Personalized plates cost an additional \$75 plus GST. [Read the SGI press release.](#)

Other News of Interest

Supreme Court Will Review Federal Privacy Law Protections for Driver License Records

The Supreme Court has stepped into a dispute over whether lawyers can obtain personal information from driver license records to recruit clients for lawsuits, despite a federal privacy law intended to shield motor vehicle records. The justices agreed Tuesday to hear an appeal from three South Carolinians who objected to solicitations from lawyers to join a lawsuit against car dealers. At issue is whether lawyers may use information gleaned from South Carolina driver records, which they obtained by filing open records requests. A federal law aimed at protecting driver records has an exception for lawsuits and the court will determine whether the lawyers' actions qualify. [Read the full story in The Washington Post.](#)

Woof! New App Barks at You if You Text and Drive

The annoying sound of a barking dog has helped an 11-year-old girl in California take home \$20,000 (U.S.). Victoria Walker, a sixth grader from Rancho Palos Verdes, won AT&T's It Can Wait hackathon earlier this month, a contest that challenged people to create applications to prevent people from driving while texting, a cause the company is fighting more broadly. Walker was named the winner thanks to Rode Dog, an app she designed with the help of David Grau, who is a creative director and designer at WLDG, an interactive agency. The app enables users to create social network "packs" of friends and family who, using GPS technology, can tell if anyone else in their group is texting while they are behind the wheel. Commit that sin and the app will send you an incessant barking sound to get you off the phone and focusing on the road. She said she got the idea for the app from hearing her three dogs bark, which obviously can be pretty annoying. But if dogs don't do it for you, perhaps another animal will. The app makes other sounds – the roar of a lion, the cluck of a chicken – available to users.

[Read the full story in *The Globe and Mail*.](#)

Largest Rental Car Companies Agree Not to Use Recalled Vehicles

The four largest U.S. rental car companies have agreed to park vehicles facing a recall until the defect has been repaired, and lent their support to legislation to make such a policy the law. The move by Hertz Corp., Avis Budget Group Inc., Enterprise Holdings Inc. and Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group Inc., which represent 93% of the market, followed a years-long quest by the mother of two victims of a fatal crash and auto safety advocates to keep rental cars with known problems off the road. They also backed proposed legislation that would place the industry's compliance with recall notices under the oversight of NHTSA. Proposed federal legislation would require companies to stop renting vehicles within 24 hours of receiving a safety recall notice or within 48 hours if the recall involved more than 5,000 vehicles in a company's fleet. The vehicles could not be rented or sold until the safety defect was repaired. The companies agreed to back the legislation after Boxer and Schumer made some revisions, including allowing the rental of a car if there was a manufacturer-approved temporary step that eliminated the safety risk until parts were available. Companies also would be allowed to sell a damaged recalled vehicle as junk. [Read the full story in *The Morning Call*.](#)

Fake Drivers Licenses Still a Threat, GAO Finds

Despite progress by the 50 states in preventing other types of identity fraud, criminals -- or terrorists -- are still able to obtain fake drivers licenses or official IDs under multiple names in multiple states, according to the Government Accountability Office. In its report to Congress, the GAO describes how its investigators were able to obtain five drivers licenses under different identities in three different states using counterfeit documents including birth certificates and Social Security cards. "In each state, investigative staff obtained genuine licenses under fictitious identities -- combinations of name, date of birth, and SSN that do not correspond to any real individuals," states the report. In two states, GAO investigators succeeded in getting multiple licenses under false identities including names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers, none of which corresponded to actual people. "In most of these five attempts across the three states, we were issued permanent or temporary licenses in about 1 hour or less," reported the GAO. "In only one case did a front-counter clerk appear to question the validity of one of the counterfeit documents, but this clerk did not stop the issuance process." Long recognized as a problem, people crossing state lines to obtain fraudulent license and IDs remains a "challenge" for the states, according to the GAO. "Officials in all the states we interviewed acknowledged they lack the ability to consistently determine if the identity presented by a license applicant is already associated with a license-holder in another state," stated the GAO. The GAO generally agreed, recommending that Congress enact legislation enhancing state driver licensing agencies' ability under the REAL ID Act to combat license fraud. In addition, the GAO recommended that while national systems to detect cross-state and birth certificate fraud are being developed, the Secretary of Homeland Security should work with state agencies to develop and implement an interim strategy for addressing cross-state driver license fraud. [Read the full story at USGovInfo.](#) Read a related story - [As Real ID Act Deadline Nears, DHS Needs to Lead, Says GAO](#)

Did you know . . .

- There are more than 7,000 varieties of apples, but only about 100 are grown commercially in the U.S. Eight varieties account for 80% of total U.S. production. Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, McIntosh, Rome Beauty, Jonathan, York and Stayman.
- The U.S. produced 10 billion pounds of apples in 2006, more than 1/2 were grown in Washington state. The world production of apples is more than 40 million tons.
- Apples float because 25 percent of their volume is air.
- If you grew 100 apple trees from the seeds of the same tree, the new apple trees would all be different.
- Americans eat about 19.6 pounds of fresh apples annually, compared to about 46 pounds consumed annually by residents of European Countries.