

AAMVA Regional News

November 30, 2012

Region I News

Maine Motorists to Renew Licenses at AAA Offices

The Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles is expanding the number of communities where motorists can renew driver's licenses at their local AAA branch. Following a successful pilot program in Waterville, the program is being expanded Wednesday to include AAA branches in Portland, Bangor and Augusta. The public-private partnership is providing more locations and flexible hours without any additional cost. AAA branch office business hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The program will eventually include AAA's remaining five offices. [Read the full story at WGME.com.](#)

Frederick Senator to Introduce Organ Donation Bill (Maryland)

State Sen. Ron Young plans to introduce a bill in the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly that would change how drivers become organ donors. The bill would ask drivers who are renewing or obtaining a driver's license if they want to opt out of the organ donor program, a change from the current system that asks drivers if they'd like to become a donor. Asking people if they don't want to be a donor has been shown to dramatically increase the number of people who participate. Under the proposal, Motor Vehicle Administration employees would be required to ask people if they don't want to participate, rather than having them fill out a form where the information could be overlooked, Young said. Drivers in Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania can choose to become organ donors. [Read the full story at Gazette.net.](#)

MVA Announces New Way to Learn How To Drive (Maryland)

There's a whole new way to learn how to drive. Officials from the Maryland Vehicle Administration on Thursday introduced a new driving phone application that includes a driving test tutorial that can challenge anyone's driving knowledge. It will also keep Maryland drivers updated with recent driving information. Known as the MD Practice Driving Test app, this new application has already been downloaded by nearly 100,000 people. It can be used on Androids, iPhones, and iPads. MVA officials say that they hope the new application will help more people to pass the safety aspects of the driving test, and also help decrease the number of deaths that happen on Maryland's roadways to zero. The Maryland practice driving test app was developed at no charge for the MVA by NIC Inc. through a self-funded eGovernment services contract with the State Department of Information Technology. The app can be downloaded at the Google Play Store. [Read the full story at CBSLocal.com.](#)

N.J. Senate Approves 'Truth in Tolling Act' To Ensure E-Zpass Users Know How Much They're Charged

The Senate today gave its approval to legislation to ensure E-ZPass users know exactly how much is being drawn from their accounts at toll booths along the New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway and Atlantic City Expressway. The measure – named the "Truth In Tolling Act" – is necessary as E-ZPass users, once they clear a toll booth, are generally greeted only by an electronic sign that tells them their toll has been paid, but not the amount that has been automatically withdrawn from their account. Under the measure (S-1434), the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the South Jersey Transportation Authority would be required, during their next scheduled equipment upgrades, to ensure the lighted signs that tell drivers that their E-ZPass has been read also include the

actual amounts being charged to their accounts. The bill would exempt toll booths from the state's major bridges and tunnels from its provisions, as those are controlled by bi-state agencies and would require identical legislation to be passed in multiple states to take effect. High-speed express E-ZPass lanes also would be exempted. The bill passed 36-0 and now heads to the Assembly for further consideration. [Read the full story at PolitickerNJ.com.](#)

State Troopers Launch Facebook, Twitter Initiatives *(New York)*

State troopers are turning to social media websites to update New Yorkers on public safety information and request tips on investigations. New York State Police launched an official Facebook page and Twitter account earlier this year and on Monday urged the public to participate. The websites will be used to post information about police units and members along with updates about arrests, closures and traffic safety. Police also will ask citizens for information about crimes and provide phone numbers they can call. Police already began requesting assistance for identifying individuals and providing information for certain cases on Monday. The websites are not to be used as a forum to report emergencies or provide tips; rather, they are an outreach opportunity for the police. The state police's official Facebook page can be found at facebook.com/nyspolice, and on Twitter at @nyspolice. [Read the full story at StarGazette.com.](#)

DMV Offers New Online Registration Renewal for Snowmobiles *(New York)*

Renewing a snowmobile registration just got easier! Riders can now renew their snowmobile registrations online. At the time of online renewal, riders will also be provided an option to print a temporary 15-day certificate of registration from their own computers that will be valid immediately and can be used until the new registration arrives by mail. In addition, riders who belong to a NYSSA snowmobile club can enter their membership information and register at a discounted fee. There is no additional charge for renewing online or for the temporary document. This is one of several online services DMV offers. By signing up for MyDMV, customers gain quick and easy access to a variety of personalized and secure online services without mailing in forms or making a trip to a local DMV office. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

Region II News

County Tax Collectors, Others File Protests Against Florida's Plan to Outsource License *(Florida)*

County tax collectors and two other license plate groups filed formal protests Monday accusing Florida's Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles of overstepping its authority with plans to outsource parts of its license plate operation. The groups also accuse the department of excluding small businesses and discouraging competition as it moves forward with plans for a new license plate design produced by private businesses and distributed through online orders. In Florida, prisoners manufacture the tags and tax collectors distribute them. The two other groups that have filed protests are Avery Dennison, a labeling and packaging company, and PRIDE, a St. Petersburg-based prison-industries company that uses inmate labor to make tags. The proposed change could drive the nonprofit out of business. State officials are required to meet with the three groups within the next week to keep the dispute out of administrative courts. If the state proceeds with outsourcing, it will dispense an estimated \$31.4 million in contracts in two years. "The intention is not to harm anybody. It's to see what's out there and see if we can bring the best value to the state of Florida and the citizens," said Jon Kosberg, the department's chief of purchasing and contracts, adding that the department is only gathering information and is a long way from striking deals with private vendors. Six companies have expressed interest in the department's "invitation to negotiate," a document that outlines expectations for potential business partners. Wilbur Brewton, a

lobbyist for PRIDE, says its 33-page protest speaks for itself. Florida wants vendors to produce 16 million plates in the first year, a possibility for only the largest companies, the report says. And it insists the new tags be flat. PRIDE and other groups only have the technology to produce the traditional, raised tags. State officials insist that flat tags are more legible for cameras at red lights and toll booths, but critics say that's not the case. Florida's push to privatize hit its first major road block during an October Cabinet meeting, when license plate chief Julie Jones planned to pitch a redesign of Florida's iconic green and white license tag as she announced a revamp of the department's manufacturing and distribution methods. Tax collectors had lobbied lawmakers and fiercely protested the change, prompting state officials to delay. At that time, Attorney General Pam Bondi said the state was "not ready" to move forward on privatizing its tags, a position she holds even now. The snags won't affect the state's proposed makeover for its tags. [Read the full story in the Tampa Bay Times.](#)

Panel May Toughen Virginia's Texting While Driving Law

The Virginia State Crime Commission will consider proposed legislation to toughen Virginia's laws on texting while driving. The commission asked its staff for a report on the topic after a judge in Fairfax County did not convict a driver - believed to have been texting when involved in a fatal accident - of reckless driving because the state had a law making texting a lesser crime. Reckless driving is punishable by up to a year in jail. Options suggested by the crime commission staff included amending the law to make it clear that texting while driving is not precluded from being considered reckless driving, creating an enhanced penalty for traffic violations committed while texting, or classifying texting while driving as reckless driving. The commission will consider endorsing a proposal at its Dec. 5 meeting. Endorsement by the commission does not ensure passage by the General Assembly but carries great weight with legislators. Virginia's reckless driving law includes 13 specific violations, such as driving too fast for conditions or failure to stop for a school bus. There also are two general violations, one that includes driving in a manner that endangers life, limb or property. The Virginia Supreme Court has defined "reckless" as "a disregard by the driver of a motor vehicle for the consequences of his act and an indifference to the safety of life, limb and property." The Virginia Court of Appeals has ruled that a driver with local knowledge of a short merger lane who speeds up, making it difficult for another driver to merge in front of him, is guilty of reckless driving. But courts do not infer reckless driving by intoxication alone or the mere occurrence of an accident. Virginia law makes texting a secondary offense - an offense for which you can be charged if police pull you over for a more serious "primary" offense such as speeding or running a stop sign. The Virginia law makes it illegal to manually enter text messages to communicate with another person but not the one-click call-up of a stored number. Exceptions are the use of a GPS device, emergency vehicles reporting an emergency, or in a lawfully parked or stopped vehicle. There is a \$20 fine for a first offense and a \$50 fine for subsequent offenses. In 2012, DOT, using accident report forms from law enforcement, began collecting data for fatalities, injuries and crashes that resulted from texting. The study found there were 63 such accidents, most of them involving drivers ages 21 to 30. [Read the full story in The Times Dispatch.](#)

Veterans Designation Available On West Virginia Driver's Licenses

The veterans designation is now available on West Virginia driver's licenses. Veterans can apply for the license at their DMV regional office with their DD 214, another form of military identification or their motor vehicle registration card showing a current military license plate. There is no charge if the designation is the only transaction being sought at the time. Applicants also must have the applicable licensing documentation required since Jan. 3. If the applicant has not received a license or ID since Jan. 3, the following documents are needed: one proof of identity, one proof of Social Security, two proofs of residency, any name change documents to

establish a link in the applicant's identity. If the applicant has received a license or ID since Jan. 3, all that is needed is proof of residency. [Read the full story in the Cumberland Times-News.](#)

Region III News

Illinois State Police Trooper Killed in Line of Death

A fatal crash claimed the life of a State Trooper on Monday morning. "It is with a heavy heart and deep sadness that I announce the tragic death of Trooper Kyle Deatherage. Trooper Deatherage left a legacy of courage and duty and today he is surrounded by the respect of his fellow officers and by the love of his friends and family. Our hearts are heavy with grief, but they are also strengthened by Trooper Deatherage's brave calling," Director Hiram Grau said. While conducting a traffic stop just after 9 a.m., Trooper Deatherage was killed in the line of duty when he was struck by a truck-tractor semi. He was pronounced at the scene. Deatherage had been a member of the Illinois State Police since May 31, 2009. He was assigned to District 18 as a motorcycle officer. Trooper Deatherage was 32 years old and is survived by his two young children and his wife, Sarah. [Read the ISP statement.](#) *Our sympathies to the Illinois State Police on their devastating loss.*



Lawmakers Question Plan for Illegal Immigrant Driver's Licenses (Illinois)

Some Illinois lawmakers are pushing back against a proposal to provide driver's licenses for illegal immigrants. Immigrant rights groups are using the strong Hispanic turnout in the election as fuel to push the proposal during the fall veto session. And while State Sen. Dale Righter says that particular voting base should get more attention from his party - and Democrats - he's not sure if this is the best way to do it. "The question is whether or not you want to make a substantive change in public policy to drive what you hope will be the politics for the next two or four years, and I think that's a dangerous road down which to go," Righter said. He calls a driver's license a privilege and doesn't believe people who are in the United States illegally deserve that privilege. Proponents of the legislation say it would make Illinois' roads safer because many illegal immigrants are driving now without a license or insurance. [Read the full story at CBSLocal.com.](#)

License Plate Fee Hike Goes to Quinn (Illinois)

The Illinois Senate signed off on a plan Wednesday to raise the cost of license plates to help fund Illinois state parks. On a 39-11 vote, the Senate approved legislation that would add \$2 to the annual vehicle registration fee, with the estimated \$22 million in proceeds targeted at plugging holes in the Department of Natural Resources budget. The measure, which would push the license plate fee to \$101, has already been approved by the House and now awaits action by Gov. Pat Quinn. A Quinn spokeswoman said the governor supports the proposal. Once signed into law, it will mark the second time in three years that lawmakers have boosted car registration fees to help pay for other areas of state government. In 2009, for example, the fee went up by \$20 to help pay for road, bridge and school construction projects. From Chris McGinnis, site Secretary of State Jesse White, who would have to administer the fee, opposes the increase. [Read the full story in The Southern.](#)

Senate Passes Transit Bills, Fee on Car Registrations to Fund Plan (Michigan)

The Michigan Senate on Tuesday passed long-stalled legislation creating a Metro Detroit regional transit authority, but new property taxes and vehicle fees to fund public transportation projects remain controversial as the five-bill package heads to the House. Among other provisions, the legislation also would permit the transit authority to

seek voter approval for a vehicle registration fee or millage to fund a modern public transportation system that could include light rail and rapid transit buses. Senate Bill 911 would allow the transit authority to seek voter approval in the four counties for a special registration fee not to exceed \$1.20 for every \$1,000 of a vehicle's listing price. The main bill also requires 85% of all the money generated in a county be spent on transportation projects in that county. [Read the full story in Detroit News.](#)

Director of Department of Motor Vehicles Leaving (Nebraska)

Gov. Dave Heineman announced this week that DMV Director Beverly Neth is leaving to assume the CEO position with the National Safety Council Nebraska in Omaha. Dir. Neth's last day serving on the Governor's Cabinet will be Jan. 31. "Bev has been an outstanding Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles," said Gov. Heineman. "Under her leadership, the DMV has become a technologically sophisticated state agency and a leader in providing access to online services to better serve the needs of Nebraska's citizens. She has done a great job for Nebraskans." "It has been my privilege to serve both Governor Johanns and Governor Heineman, and to work with a talented and dedicated group of state employees at the DMV," said Dir. Neth. Accomplishments under her leadership include: modernization of the driver licensing legacy systems by implementing the Interactive Driver License System and Digital Driver License System, Organ Donor Registry, Automated Knowledge Testing in Examining, modernization of the motor vehicles systems through implementation of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Database, Electronic Lien and Titling System, Digital License Plate System, online services in Motor Carrier Division, participation in the intelligent transportation safety initiatives of Commercial Vehicle and Information Systems Network (CVISN), and Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM). Dir. Neth also lead efforts with DMV website enhancements and branding the ClickDMV suite of online services, and collaborated to ensure public safety with effective monitoring of individuals convicted of driving under the influence by using an ignition interlock device. Neth was appointed by former Gov. Mike Johanns in 1999. Prior to joining the DMV, Dir. Neth served as Deputy Director and legal counsel for the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services. She was a private practice attorney for nearly eight years before joining the Governor's cabinet. [Read the Governor's press release.](#) *Thanks for all you've done for Nebraska, for AAMVA and for our community! Best wishes in your new gig! We will miss you!!!!*

Ohio Senate Bill's 1-Year License Suspension for Wrong-Way Drivers Criticized as Harsh

A potential vote on a bill increasing penalties for wrong-way drivers on interstate highways was postponed Wednesday amid concerns that it goes too far in punishing unintentional behavior. Much of the discussion before the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee focused on a provision bumping a misdemeanor charge up to a felony for a drunk driver who enters an interstate exit ramp. But other sections of Senate Bill 336 would impose a mandatory one-year license suspension on any driver who travels more than 500 feet in the wrong direction. The bill's sponsor said Ohio law already imposes harsher penalties on drunken drivers who kill or injure others, but this bill would go after drivers who aren't impaired. The measure had been scheduled for a possible committee vote, but the chairman held it for an additional hearing. Currently, wrong-way drivers face a minor misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$150 and points against their driver's license. If such drivers have been found guilty of other traffic violations within the previous year, the violation could rise as high as a third-degree misdemeanor carrying up to 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine. Senate Bill 336 would invoke a one-year license suspension for someone caught driving farther than 500 feet on the wrong side of an interstate, and a subsequent violation of that suspension would trigger a year in jail. If someone is killed or injured, the wrong-way driver would face a suspension of two to 10 years with a subsequent violation of that suspension triggering a third-degree felony

carrying a three-year prison term. A drunken driver who commits a wrong-way violation would face a fourth-degree felony carrying a six to 18-month jail term. [Read the full story in the Toledo Blade.](#)

Wisconsin is Making it Easier for Veterans to Become Commercial Drivers

Veterans and current military employees who have a military license to operate military commercial vehicles, may be able to use it to obtain a Wisconsin CDL without having to take the CDL knowledge and skills exams. The DMV worked to standardize the CDL application process to make it easier to consider military experience and skills. Individuals must be Wisconsin residents in order to be eligible for the waiver and the waiver does not cover hazardous materials or school bus endorsements. [Read the DOT press release.](#)

Region IV News

Migrant Driver's-License Lawsuit is Filed; Brewer Vows to Fight Move (Arizona)

Gov. Jan Brewer on Thursday vowed to defend her executive order denying driver's licenses to young undocumented immigrants who receive federal work permits through President Barack Obama's deferred-action program, after a group of civil- and immigrant-rights organizations filed a class-action lawsuit challenging the order. The ACLU, the National Immigration Law Center and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund say in their lawsuit that Brewer's executive order is unconstitutional because it is superseded by federal law. The lawsuit also says Brewer's order unjustly blocks undocumented immigrants who get federal work permits under Obama's program from getting driver's licenses because the state continues to give driver's licenses to other non-citizens who get the same type of work permits through other forms of deferred action. The suit seeks to toss out Brewer's executive order so that deferred-action recipients can get driver's licenses. The lawsuit challenging Brewer's order was filed on behalf of the Arizona Dream Act Coalition, a group made up of young undocumented immigrants, and five young undocumented immigrants who have received work permits through Obama's program. [Read the full story at AZCentral.com](#)

Impaired Driving Down, 104 Lives Saved Under Tough Law (British Columbia)

Two years after B.C. introduced Canada's toughest provincial impaired driving law, an estimated 104 lives have been saved and impaired driving has dropped significantly. At a recent event to mark the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims and Mothers Against Drunk Driving's 25th annual Project Red Ribbon, Justice Minister and Attorney General Shirley Bond announced preliminary road-crash fatality data for the two years ending Sept. 30, 2012, and the results of a recent driver impairment survey. Since the September 2010 launch of the immediate roadside prohibition (IRP) program, the number of alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths has decreased to an average of 62 a year. This represents a 46% decrease from the average of 114 in each of the previous five years. This success well exceeds government's goal, set in 2010 in honour of impaired driving victim Alexa Middelaer, to reduce alcohol-impaired driving fatalities by 35% by the end of 2013. Government also released today an independently conducted survey of drivers as part of an evaluation of the impact of B.C.'s IRP legislation. The 2012 Roadside Alcohol and Drug Survey found 44% fewer drivers had a blood-alcohol content (BAC) 0.05% and over - and nearly 60% fewer drivers were at or over the Criminal Code threshold of 0.08%. The results also showed that levels of drinking and driving were the lowest recorded in the history of seven similar surveys conducted since 1995. By questioning voluntarily participating drivers, the 2012 survey revealed strong awareness of, support for and concern about facing B.C.'s IRP sanctions. More than 82% of drivers said they were aware of the sanctions. 90% felt the legislation would make roads safer. 30% said the new law prompted a

change in their behaviour. 53% said they had been stopped in a police alcohol check in the last two years - and nearly half thought there was a good likelihood of being stopped if they drove after consuming too much alcohol. [Read the BC press release.](#)

Ex-Employee Charged With License-Plate Fraud (California)

A former Canyon Lake city employee accused of filing false paperwork to obtain fee-exempt government license plates for 17 vehicles was arrested this month on suspicion of felony charges. According to the DMV, Patrick Joseph Colleary submitted paperwork registering vehicles to a nonexistent agency - the "Menifee Wildomar Fire District." Colleary, 62, was charged Oct. 30 with perjury and filing fraudulent paperwork. The investigation began in December when a woman reported to Cal Fire officials that she saw a car registered to the "Menifee Wildomar Fire Department" driving erratically, according to a DMV investigator's statement in support of an arrest warrant. It appears the woman noted the license plate number and had someone look up the registered owner. Cal Fire officials referred the complaint to the DMV. DMV investigators learned that an employee from a Lake Elsinore vehicle registration service brought the application, signed by Colleary, to a DMV office. Through the registration service, the investigator discovered 16 more vehicles Colleary had registered to the fictitious fire district. It appears the vehicles did not display markings identifying them as fire district property. [Read the full story at PE.com.](#)

Forged DMV Documents, Meth Found During Traffic Stop (California)

Two King City residents were arrested Sunday on suspicion of committing crimes including possessing more than 100 forged DMV documents. At 9:45 p.m. Alicia Lopez, 39, and Arnoldo Guerrero, 37, occupants in a vehicle were pulled over in a traffic stop. Police said forged DMV documents and an open container of beer was visible in the vehicle. The Sheriff's Office said a subsequent search of the vehicle revealed about 130 forged DMV registration tabs, methamphetamine and related smoking pipes. The two were taken into custody and transported to county jail, they said. [Read the full story in The Californian.](#)

California Drivers and Repair Shops to Navigate New Smog Law in 2013

On Jan. 1, AB 2289 impacting California's smog check programs goes into effect as part of the larger effort to reduce air pollution. The new law impacts both motorists and automotive places which offer smog testing, or other businesses which specialize in and only offer smog tests. Vehicles must pass smog tests every two years so that their owners can register them through the DMV. One effect of the bill is that motorists with older cars (which the state considers most likely to fail the smog tests) will be directed to new "STAR Stations." STAR stands for Station Technician Achievement Rating and means that a smog station has met high standards, or scores, based on a state-issued report card. Auto operators who wanted to get STAR certification have had one year to improve their scores which are also available for consumers to see online. Under state law the DMV must send out notices at least 60 days before the deadline for vehicles to be registered. An attachment inside the notices alerts motorists they can take their vehicles to a Gold Shield of Test Only station until the new law goes into effect. Besides motorists, automotive operators are gearing up for the law to go into effect. Currently, more than 1,300 stations statewide have applied for and received high enough scores to become a STAR station. Another aspect will go into effect mid-year 2013 aimed at making it easier and less expensive for newer cars to pass smog tests. Smog stations will move away from traditional tail pipe tests they've been using for the last three decades and, instead, use specialized "sensors" to expedite the process. However, those new sensors can be used only for cars that are

year 2000 or newer. Older cars will be directed to STAR stations. The goal of the new law is to improve smog passage rate through better testing, diagnostics, repair and follow-up. [Read the full story in the Daily Democrat.](#)

CHP Hiring for First Time in Three Years

The California Highway Patrol announced this week that the law enforcement agency will be taking applications for three days in January. "This is an opportunity to serve alongside some of California's finest, who provide the highest level of safety, service and security throughout the state," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "A career with a law enforcement agency like the CHP offers unlimited opportunities for someone who is looking for a challenge," he added. CHP has not accepted job applications in three years. In 2013, the agency will do so for three days, starting on Jan. 3. The application window closes on Jan. 5. [Read the story on-line in the Woodside Patch.](#)

Dream Act Immigrants Eligible for Nevada Driver's Licenses

Immigrants brought to the country illegally as children and granted a temporary reprieve by President Obama this summer will be eligible for Nevada driver's licenses and state IDs. Gov. Brian Sandoval supports the policy. That brought a sigh of relief from immigration advocates. By some estimates, Nevada is home to 20,000 young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children who qualify for the "deferred action for childhood arrivals" - a program informally known as Dream Act-lite after the broader legislation that has failed to pass Congress. Nevada officials said the state will honor the "employment authorization card"; a photo ID issued by the Department of Homeland Security to the deferred action applicants. Those cards had been issued to other noncitizens in the country legally and have been accepted by the DMV since at least 1999. [Read the full story in the Las Vegas Sun.](#)

MySGI Adds Commercial Vehicles to Its Services

Transactions for commercial vehicles can now be completed using the MySGI online service. Commercial vehicles in classes A, C, D and TS (heavy trucks, vans and semi-trailer units) can now be renewed or cancelled online using MySGI. Other commercial vehicles, including buses and taxis in vehicle classes PB, PT, PC and PS can be cancelled online, but renewals require a motor licence issuer to review documentation in person. MySGI enables customers who have registered for an account to perform most of their SGI-related business online - including renewing and cancelling their plates, making payments, selecting their correspondence preference, booking Class 5 and motorcycle road test appointments, and updating contact information. To open a MySGI account, customers simply provide their email address to any SGI motor licence issuer or customer service representative in order to verify identity. Then the customer can follow the steps on MySGI's registration page to set up and access their account. [Read the SGI press release.](#)

Driver Testing to be Conducted Outside DOL Across the State (Washington)

On December 1, the Department of Licensing will expand a new program allowing driver training schools and school district driver training programs across the state to conduct driver knowledge and skills testing for new driver license applicants. The Department of Licensing will continue to offer tests in areas that don't have driver training schools nearby that offer testing. To conduct driver tests, driver training schools must be licensed with the state or be part of a state-certified public school driver training program. They have to apply for the authority to administer driver testing, and are subject to audits and record checks. After passing the tests, customers will go to a licensing office to obtain their license. Customers are still required to pay the driver license application fee to

DOL. Driver training schools will set the fee they charge for the tests. The program is the final phase of implementing House Bill 1635, which gives the Department authority to contract with private driver training schools, school districts and motorcycle training schools to conduct some knowledge and skills tests. The bill was passed in an effort to reduce wait times in licensing service offices. [Read the DOL press release.](#)

Washington Faces 'Driving While Stoned' Challenges

How is a motorist stopped for DUI in Washington supposed to know when blood THC content has reached five nanograms per liter to break a new law? The legal blood alcohol limit for driving in Washington state is 0.08. Now, there's another number to consider for driving while under the influence of marijuana. Five. The legal limit is five nanograms of THC per millimeter of blood. THC is the active ingredient in pot. There isn't a breath test for THC and while oral fluid testing could be done in the future, blood testing is the only option in Washington right now. The state toxicology lab already tests for THC in about 1,000 drug-related DUI cases a year, but the limit is new. The blood test isn't simple. It involves 39 different steps from when the blood is drawn to the testing of 50 microliters of clear fluid for THC. In the lab, the testing can take more than two weeks, which could be a problem in court. Some question the constitutionality of the new marijuana law, because pot smokers have no way to test their levels. As marijuana smokers test their new freedom, the new DUI lab will face major tests of its own, on the highways, in the lab, and in the courts. [Read the full story at KGW.com.](#)

Did you know . . .

Ian Fleming originally thought that four Bond books were enough, but his publisher persuaded him to wait until he had written 10 before killing the character — a fake death, it turned out, but one that necessitated an obituary, to be included in the You Only Live Twice novel. Readers learned that Bond's parents were Andrew Bond, a Scottish man, and a Swiss woman named Monique Delacroix. The elder Mr. Bond worked for a weapons company and brought his family on many business trips; both parents died when the boy was 11. He lived with an aunt in England after that, studied at Eton and Fettes College in Edinburgh, graduated from high school at 17 and was then recruited by the Royal Navy. (Fleming himself studied at Eton and was recruited into naval intelligence.) The world is not enough is the Bond family motto.