

Regional News – March 8, 2013

Tidbits

[See You in Atlanta! - 2013 Workshop & Law Institute](#)

In just a few days, the exciting 2-day meeting featuring numerous educational and networking opportunities begins. It's not too late to register. Come learn what AAMVA is all about and how it can help you in your job. Meet with industry representatives who have services and products that solve your issues. Attend one of four Town Halls to find out the latest in the motor vehicle, law enforcement, and legal services industry. [It's not too late to get registered!](#)

[2013 Standing Committee Vacancies](#)

Each of AAMVA's three standing committees have vacancies beginning September 2013. If you are interested in applying for membership, please download the Committee Member Application.

- The Driver Standing Committee is seeking an information technology representative and a public affairs and consumer education (PACE) representative from any of AAMVA's four regions.
- The Enforcement Standing Committee is seeking two law enforcement representatives - one from Region I and one from Region III. These applicants must be sworn law enforcement officers.
- The Vehicle Standing Committee is seeking an information technology representative and a public affairs and consumer education (PACE) representative from any of AAMVA's four regions. The Vehicle Standing Committee is also seeking a vehicle representative from Region III.

All terms are for two years beginning September 2013 and ending August 2015. Download the [Committee Member Application](#). Applications must be received by **August 1, 2013**. If you have questions, please contact Dianne Graham, director, Member & Conference Services via email dgraham@aamva.org or phone (703) 908-8267. For more information, see <http://www.aamva.org/Committees-and-Working-Groups/>.

Region I News

[DMV Launches New Temporary Tag System \(Delaware\)](#)

The Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in partnership with Delaware Interactive has developed a new temporary tag issuing system for new car dealerships which will launch on March 8. The program will provide greater efficiencies for automobile dealerships to fulfill DMV requirements governing the sale of motor vehicles and temporary tag issuance. The web-based temporary tag system will streamline the issuance of temporary vehicle registration at the dealership by allowing dealers to print a "temp-tag" on site and on demand. There will no longer be a need to send paperwork back to the DMV, which helps improve efficiency by reducing manual data entry and decreasing the administrative burden on the DMV and dealership staffs. [Read the full article in the Middletown Transcript.](#)

[Massachusetts Senators Demand Gov. Patrick Comply with REAL ID](#)

Lawmakers from the Massachusetts State Senate submitted a letter to Gov. Deval Patrick on Wednesday, demanding the state government's full compliance with the federal REAL ID Act, according to Maria Sliwa, spokeswoman for a public-interest group and sister of Guardian Angels founder and talk show host Curtis Sliwa. The senators' action follows the filing of a Public Records Request with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) by the Coalition for a Secure Driver's License (CSDL) regarding that state's low level of compliance with the federal identification regulations. Enacted in 2005 during the Bush Administration, the REAL ID Act requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish standards for state issued driver's licenses that would be used for "official purposes,"

such as boarding a commercial airplane, obtaining a U.S. passport, and other activities requiring the verification of identity. [Read the full article at examiner.com.](#)

Governor Cuomo Announces 13,000 Identity Fraud Cases Investigated by DMV Using Facial Recognition Technology (New York)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has investigated 13,000 possible cases of identity fraud since facial recognition technology was implemented three years ago. These investigations have resulted in more than 2,500 arrests and more than 5,000 individuals facing administrative action. "DMV's effective use of facial recognition technology shows how our state government is progressing with a 21st century world to work for New Yorkers," Governor Cuomo said. "Through this program, we are successfully taking dangerous drivers off our roads, helping to track down criminals, and protecting taxpayer dollars - sending a clear message that New York State does not tolerate identity fraud and those who try will be caught." "We have seen extraordinary results from the use of facial recognition technology," said DMV Commissioner Barbara J. Fiala. "I commend our Division of Field Investigation (DFI) unit on the implementation of this technology which helps assure that attempts at identity fraud for any reason are deterred." "Facial recognition technology has been an extremely valuable tool for our investigators in combating identity theft," said the DMV's Director of Field Investigations Owen McShane. "This initiative has not only helped to make the state's highways safer but also identified many individuals who attempted to commit fraud at taxpayer expense." [Read the full article at governor.ny.gov.](#)

Rhode Island Senate Panel Would Have DMV Post Wait Times on Its Website

Draft recommendations before a Senate commission on the state Division of Motor Vehicles would have the DMV post wait times at its offices on its website. The commission's chairman, Sen. Louis P. DiPalma, D- Little Compton, said the recommendations would also ask the DMV to file monthly reports to the Senate reporting the wait times for the agency's offices. They would also ask the DMV to reduce delays at the agency's offices by more strictly enforcing a ban on in-person registration renewals, which can be done online. [Read more in the Providence Journal.](#)

Region II News

Repeal of International Driving-Permit Rule in High Gear (Florida)

O Canada, come on down to our state. And feel free to drive without an international permit. Florida lawmakers are speeding toward repeal of a new law that says international visitors need a special permit to drive in the state. The law, which took effect Jan. 1, has caused a brouhaha, particularly among the Canadian "snowbirds" who pile into the Sunshine State each winter to take a break from the cold. "We want to make sure we send a clear message that our state is open for business," said Rep. Daniel Davis, R-Jacksonville, who is shepherding a repeal bill through the House. [Read the full article in the Orlando Sentinel.](#)

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Issues One Millionth Customer a Secure License/ID! (Georgia)

Commissioner Rob Mikell, Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS), announced today that one million customers have received a new SecureID driver license and/or Identification Card since new process changes on July 1, 2012. "This major milestone ensures that all our customers will have their credentials recognized as meeting the latest federal security standards as required by the Real ID Act, and DDS is committed to that goal," said Mikell. Georgia Governor Nathan Deal commended the DDS. "Congratulations to Commissioner Mikell and his team for reaching this important achievement," said Deal. "DDS provides our citizens with the most secure licenses and IDs that our state has ever produced

that includes protection against identity theft and a higher level of homeland security," he added. SecureID requires customers to visit a DDS customer service center in person to present original documentation to prove: personal identity, two proofs of residential address, and full social security number. Non-citizens must also prove legal presence. Renewal customers who arrive without complete documentation are still issued an 120-day temporary license or ID so they may continue to drive legally and have photo identification. This allows them ample time to gather documentation, but does mean a second trip to a DDS center. [Read the full article at www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

North Carolina Cities Want DMV to Block Registrations for Parking Scofflaws

The city of Raleigh hopes to recoup about \$350,000 a year in unpaid parking tickets by getting the state Division of Motor Vehicles to block car registrations for parking scofflaws. The measure most likely would come in the form of a state law that could mean additional revenue for the parking programs of cities across North Carolina. "It's a good chunk of money," said Paul Meyer, director of governmental affairs for the N.C. League of Municipalities. The change also would improve Raleigh's chances of collecting some of the \$3.9 million in unpaid parking tickets still on its books dating to 2006, said Gordon Dash, the city's parking administrator. Legislation under consideration, Dash said, would likely allow cities or counties to work with DMV to collect fines from drivers who have three or more parking tickets that are at least 90 days delinquent. [Read the full article in the News Observer](#).

Senate Passes Bill to Up Price of Driver's License (Oklahoma)

Oklahomans could soon be paying more for a driver's license under a measure passed Wednesday by the Oklahoma Senate. The cost for a Class D driver's license under Senate Bill 652 would rise to \$33.50 from \$21.50 to pay for more examiners and locations in hopes of reducing wait times. Most Oklahomans have the Class D driver's license. The measure passed the Senate by a vote of 37-0 and heads to the House. [Read the full article in Tulsa World](#).

Bill Would Require Drug Test for New Teen Drivers (West Virginia)

Three Mercer County delegates are co-sponsoring a bill requiring juveniles to undergo a drug test in order to attain their driver's license. Delegate Dr. Joe Ellington, R-Mercer, is the lead sponsor of House Bill 2528, which would require any person under the age of 18 to pass a drug test in order to earn their driver's license. Delegates Marty Gearheart and Delegate John Shott, both R-Mercer, are among the bill's cosponsors. "The big purpose of this is to deter teens from starting drugs," Ellington said. "If you look at the numbers in behavioral medicine, about 5 percent of the 12 to 17 age group admitted to using illegal drugs. In the 18 to 25 group, this jumps up to 25 percent. [Read the full article in the Register Herald](#).

Region III News

House Passes Statewide Ban on Cell Use While Driving (Illinois)

A new proposal to ban the use of cell phones while driving throughout Illinois passed the House on Friday along with two other traffic safety measures. The proposed ban, sponsored by Rep. John D'Amico, D-Chicago, would prohibit hand-held devices from being used by drivers except in emergencies. Drivers would have to talk on the phone either through hands-free features or after they had pulled to the side of the road. The bill goes to the Senate, where a similar bill died last year. [Read the full article in the Chicago Tribune](#).

Senate Committee Approves New Rules for Specialty License Plates (Indiana)

A Senate committee has approved new restrictions for specialty license plates. The Senate's transportation committee unanimously approved the changes with a 7-0 vote Tuesday. House Bill 1279 would create a panel to review nonprofit groups and universities that want their own specialty plates. The bill now heads to the full Senate. [Read the full article on fox59.com.](#)

Bill Would Require Iowa DOT Approval for Traffic Cameras

Local authorities who want to operate traffic cameras would have to get approval from the state department of transportation under a bill that moved out of a House panel Thursday. The legislation requires that speed and red-light cameras be placed in high-risk, high-traffic volume areas, but prohibits them from being placed on primary roads, which includes interstates, U.S. routes and Iowa routes. The bill also requires local authorities to produce a justification report to the DOT for existing and any new cameras, including documentation of existing traffic speeds and volume, posted speed limits, location of signs, intersection geometry and accident history of the location, among other items. "Anybody who has been in this battle before knows I don't like cameras," said bill sponsor Rep. Walt Rogers. "Since we can't ban them, let's at least make the regulations uniform." [Read the full article in the Gazette.](#)

Iowa Lawmakers Again Consider Raising Fuel Tax

While education spending and property tax cuts have been the focus so far in Iowa's legislative session, some think lawmakers might also take action this year on the perennial proposal of raising the fuel tax. Iowa's fuel tax - now 22 cents per gallon for gasoline including all fees - hasn't been raised since 1989. A commission appointed by Gov. Terry Branstad in 2011 recommended an increase of 8 to 10 cents to boost funding for the state's substantial network of bridges and roads, many of which are considered deteriorating or deficient. Proposals to raise the tax have come up repeatedly, and an effort to increase it by 10 cents failed in the Legislature last year. But Rep. Joshua Byrnes, R-Osage, who chairs the House transportation committee, said he thinks similar legislation would have a stronger chance this time around. [Read the full article in the Newton Daily News.](#)

Longer Renewal Period for Driver's Licenses Proposed (Iowa)

An Iowa Senate committee has voted to change the rules so Iowans could get their driver's license renewed for eight years. Under current law, the renewal period is five years. Senator Tod Bowman of Maquoketa says lines at DOT offices around the state should shrink if the longer period is approved - and the number of staff could shrink, too. "If we can provide a better service, for maybe a little less - that's the objective there," Bowman says. [Read the full article on radioiowa.com.](#)

Autonomous Vehicles in Michigan: Self-Driving Bill Moves to Senate, Could Cruise to Governor

Michigan is a leader in the automotive industry of today, and new legislation seeks to make the state a leader in the automotive industry of tomorrow. Senate Bill 169, which passed through the transportation committee today in a unanimous and bipartisan vote, would make Michigan the fourth state in the country to allow vehicle manufacturers and suppliers to test self-driving vehicles on public roads. "It's moving the automobile business into the next century, and I'm really happy to be a part of it," said Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, who introduced the bill and tweaked it in consultation with various automakers and technology companies. "It's really exciting." [Read the full article on mlive.com.](#)

Missouri Lawmakers to Review Driver's Licenses

Missouri lawmakers are focusing on how documents are handled when people seek driver's licenses. The attention comes after a lawsuit was filed this week. A southeastern Missouri man sought to update his license with a permit to carry concealed weapons and was told the application, birth certificate and residency documents would be scanned and saved. The lawsuit contends private information is being

collected, retained and disseminated to a third party and the federal government. [Read the full article at kmov.com.](#)

Red-Light Cameras Debated Before Missouri Appeals Court

The state appeals court here heard arguments Wednesday in several cases that will help determine how red-light cameras are operated across Missouri - if they are allowed at all. The Eastern District Missouri Court of Appeals has previously held that municipalities can use the cameras to ticket red-light runners if the offense is treated more like a parking violation, citing the vehicle versus the driver, and is civil in nature. That decision, in 2011, dealt with a \$100 ticket that Mary Nottebrok received for violating Creve Coeur's red-light ordinance in August 2009. But on Wednesday, an attorney representing different violators asked a three-judge panel to consider additional factors that he argued should invalidate Creve Coeur's ordinance. [Read the full article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.](#)

Bill Allows Driver's Licenses for Illegal Immigrants Who Came as Children (Ohio)

Two Democrats in the Ohio Senate said yesterday that they will introduce a bill to make plain what the Bureau of Motor Vehicles hasn't determined: Immigrants brought into the country illegally when they were children should be eligible for driver's licenses. The legislation, to be introduced by Senate Minority Leader Eric Kearney of Cincinnati and Sen. Charleta Tavares of Columbus, comes after lawyers, state lawmakers and immigrants expressed confusion regarding the BMV's interpretation of a Department of Homeland Security initiative. Employees at the BMV's main location on W. Broad Street in Columbus have been instructed not to issue licenses to those individuals until the Department of Public Safety's legal department says the federal policy applies to Ohio law, said Joe Andrews, spokesman for the department. Deputy registrars throughout the state have been allowed to determine their own policy for granting licenses. [Read the full article in the Columbus Dispatch.](#)

Court Rules Against Traffic Cameras; Ohio Considering Ban

The days of red light and speed cameras at Ohio intersections could be numbered. A Hamilton County Court judge ruled Thursday that a traffic camera ordinance in a small village near Cincinnati is invalid and unenforceable. Lawmakers are also proposing a state law banning all traffic cameras in Ohio. Only 2,188 people live in Elmwood Place, according to the 2010 census, but cameras have caught more than 20,000 drivers speeding through town since cameras were installed in September 2012. Civil citations issued for the violations have generated about \$1.5 million, according to Police Chief William Peskin. Peskin said the village has kept about \$900,000, with the rest going to Maryland-based Optotraffic. [Read the full article in the Dayton Daily News.](#)

Crackdown on Drunken Drivers Led to Decline in Crashes, Patrol Says (Ohio)

The State Highway Patrol says a crackdown on drunken drivers is working. In 2012, troopers arrested 24,520 drunken or impaired drivers, an increase of 3 percent over 2011. Also in 2012, there were 12,168 crashes that involved drunken drivers, a decrease of 14 percent over 2011. The patrol says the numbers are related. In the 12,168 drunken driving-related crashes, 431 people were killed and 7,299 were injured. Drunken or impaired drivers were responsible for 40 percent of the fatal accidents in 2012. [Read the full article in the Plain Dealer.](#)

South Dakota Senate OKs Ban on Handheld Device Use by Teen Drivers

Teenage motorists with less experience behind the wheel should be prohibited from using handheld communication devices such as cell phones and smart phones while driving in South Dakota, the state Senate decided Wednesday. The 23-10 vote was the final legislative approval for the ban. The measure, SB 106, now goes to the governor for his decision. It would apply to drivers younger than age 18 who

have instruction permits or restricted minor's permits. Teens in the age 16 to 18 bracket who hold a full operator's permit wouldn't be affected. Sen. Mike Vehle, R-Mitchell, said the ban was one of four recommendations from the teen driving task force created by the Legislature last year. It is the only one to pass both chambers. [Read more in the Mitchell Republic.](#)

Changes Proposed to Strengthen Wisconsin's Drunk Driving Laws

Changes could be coming to Wisconsin's drunk driving laws. Six bills were recently introduced in the legislature designed to bring stiffer penalties to those who drink and drive. But some of those proposed changes have smaller police departments concerned. "Drunk driving accidents, in my 30 years of law enforcement, I've seen more fatalities and more impact on families than I have in all the murder investigations that I've participated in," says Lake Hallie Police Chief Cal Smokowicz. The statistics are sobering. "On average the last 10 years, we've had an average of 200 fatalities a year in drunk driving crashes in Wisconsin," says Rep. Jim Ott (R-23rd District). Six new bills are being introduced in the legislature to try to drive down the number of OWI arrests. Among the changes: criminalizing all first offense with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 or above, making it a criminal misdemeanor, and making a 2nd offense OWI a criminal misdemeanor. Two other bills would add in minimum sentences for convicted drunk drivers who injured or killed someone while behind the wheel. [Read the full article on wxow.com.](#)

Region IV News

Arizona Argues it Can Deny Driver's Licenses to Deferred-Action Migrants

Attorneys for Gov. Jan Brewer told a federal judge Monday there is no legal basis to order the state to provide driver's licenses to certain illegal immigrants immediately, since they are not being harmed. Douglas Northup, the lead counsel for the governor and the state Department of Transportation, said those who qualify for the Obama administration's "deferred action" program want U.S. District Judge David Campbell to require the state to issue licenses, even before the case goes to trial. The governor directed ADOT last year not to give licenses to those granted the right to remain in this country and work here under the program. Northup said the challengers based their arguments on the idea that immigrants' inability to get a license hinders the ability to work and function as fully participating members of society. [Read the full article in the Arizona Star.](#)

Gas Tax Going Up as State Tries to Level Revenue (California)

California drivers, who pay some of the highest gasoline taxes in the nation, can expect to spend an additional 3.5 cents on every gallon starting this summer. State tax regulators approved the increase this week, in part to keep tax revenue steady as the demand for gasoline drops. It adds up to around \$21 a year for a driver who gets 23 mpg and puts 14,000 annual miles on the odometer, both of which are rough national averages. [Read the full article in the Orange County Register.](#)

Oregon House Votes to Extend Photo Radar in Highway Work Zones

The Oregon House has voted to allow police to use photo radar in highway work zones - even when there are no workers on site. State lawmakers voted in 2007 to allow photo radar in work zones but only when construction crews are present. It expires next year. The measure approved Wednesday would make the law permanent. The Oregon Department of Transportation says speeding fell 23 percent when photo radar was introduced. The department says speeding drivers pose the biggest risk to themselves and construction workers when they're in work zones. [Read the full article in the Oregonian.](#)

DMV to Ease CDL Requirements for Veterans with Military Driving Experience (Oregon)

Military veterans with military driving experience have one less hurdle towards obtaining an Oregon Commercial Driver's License (CDL) as of Friday, Mar. 1. The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles announced it has eased the requirements for veterans with military driving experience, consistent with a federal rule change designed to make it easier for veterans to obtain a CDL. Veterans with qualifying experience in the military will no longer be required to take the driving skills test to obtain their CDL, but still will be required to pass the written knowledge examination. Most states have already adopted this policy under a Federal Motor Carrier Safety administrative rule change. "DMV recognized that it's often difficult and prohibitively expensive for military veterans to find a suitable truck for the CDL skills test," DMV Administrator Tom McClellan said. "Oregon DMV is adopting this waiver to help veterans with experience driving certain types of military trucks make the transition to civilian trucking jobs." [Read the full article on lanetoday.com](#)

Smoking in Cars With Children Poised to Become Illegal in Utah

Smoking in cars with passengers under age 16 moved closer to becoming illegal in Utah on Friday after a passionate Senate debate over whether the law infringes on personal rights. Sen. Aaron Osmond, R-South Jordan, said he doesn't take lightly telling people what they can and can't do. But in this case, the law protects vulnerable people who can't protect themselves. Children riding in a car with an adult who smokes is like smoking themselves, he said. "I believe this bill is about putting the rights of children ahead of the property rights of any adult, not just a parent," he said. [Read the full article in the Deseret News.](#)

Did You Know

- *Officially, it's "daylight saving time," not "daylight savings time." But don't feel bad if you thought there was a final "s" on "saving"; far more people Google the incorrect phrase than the correct one.*
- *Daylight saving time has mixed effects on people's health. Transitions into and out of DST can disturb people's sleeping patterns, for example, and make them more restless at night. Night owls tend to be more bothered by the time changes than people who like mornings, Finnish researchers concluded in 2008.*
- *People are safer drivers during daylight hours, and researchers have found that DST reduces lethal car crashes and pedestrian strikes. In fact, a study concluded that observing DST year-round would annually prevent about 195 deaths of motor vehicle occupants and about 171 pedestrian fatalities.*
- *The Energy Policy Act of 2005, signed into law by President George W. Bush, extended the length of daylight saving time by four weeks. It now begins at 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March. It ends on the first Sunday in November.*
- *Also in 2005, Kazakhstan abolished daylight saving time, citing negative health effects. The country's government reportedly calculated that 51.6 percent of Kazakhs responded badly to the time change.*
- *Many other countries observe daylight saving time, but not all do so on the same day. That can create confusion for international travelers, business communications, and more.*
- *Daylight saving time was first used during World War I, as part of an effort in the United States and other warring countries to conserve fuel. In theory, using daylight more efficiently saves fuel and energy because it reduces the nation's need for artificial light.*
- *The first American to advocate for daylight saving was Benjamin Franklin. He realized in 1784 that many people burned candles at night yet slept past dawn in the summer, wasting early-morning sunlight.*

- *The effect of DST on energy use has changed over time and varies from place to place. Experts even disagree on whether DST still saves the nation energy. But so many people like to "spring forward" that it might be hard for officials to end the tradition, even if they determined it's wasteful.*