

Regional News – April 19, 2013

Tidbits

Region IV Conference Registration Now Open; Make Plans to Attend

Registration for the 2013 Region IV conference is now available at <http://www.aamva.org/2013-Region-IV-Conference/>. Registrations received by May 15 are eligible for the early rate of \$250. We will be meeting at the Omni Interlocken in Broomfield Colorado from June 24-27. Our conference rate is \$128 / night. You can make reservations by calling the Omni at (303) 438-6600 or on-line [here](#). The Committees are working on a jam packed agenda that will cover topics such as Sovereign Citizens, Delivering an Effective Dealer Management/Oversight Program, DACA and the Move Towards Two-Tier Driver Licensing, How to Walk on the Cloud Without Falling Through, Legal Marijuana - The Next National Trend and the Effects on Highway Safety, E Titling from the Jurisdictions Perspective, Are You Brave Enough for System Redesign?, Autonomous Vehicles, Best Practices to Reducing Suspended Drivers, CDL Update, and much much more. Don't miss the opportunity to network with your counterparts and share successes and challenges and to learn what new tools industry can provide to help you in your mission. Contact Sheila Prior at sprior@aamva.org or 480-275-4584 if you have questions or need more information.

Registration Now Open for Region II Conference: Hope to See You There!

Registration for the 2013 Region II conference is now available at <http://www.aamva.org/2013-Region-II-Conference/>. The conference will be held at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Georgia June 9-13. Planning details can be found on the website and the Committees have put together an excellent program with an agenda that will cover a wide range of topics. Sessions will include topics such as Changes that Improved Customer Service, Inter-agency Use of Facial Recognition, Wireless Roadside Inspection Technology, Unconventional Vehicles and Licensing, Emergency Contact Information, System Modernization, News from our Federal Partners, State-to-State and DIVS Update, E-Titling from the Jurisdictions Perspective, What is MAP21 and How Does it Affect My Agency, and several breakout sessions that delve into driver licensing, vehicle registration and titling, and law enforcement subjects in detail. Take advantage of an opportunity to network with your peers, share challenges and opportunities, and to learn how industry solutions can help you address your challenges. Visit the site or contact Patrice Aasmo at paasmo@aamva.org or 571-435-2861 if you need additional information.

DEADLINE APPROACHING: Apply Now for the Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety

The Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety is presented annually to an AAMVA member jurisdiction employee, or other individual whose primary function is directly associated with highway and traffic safety efforts.

Nomination Guidelines:

- AAMVA member jurisdiction employees, or other individuals whose primary function is motor vehicle or highway safety, are eligible.
- Interested jurisdictional members are encouraged to submit nominations to their chief motor vehicle or chief law enforcement administrator who will then submit one nominee per jurisdictional agency to AAMVA Director of Law Enforcement Brian Ursino at bursino@aamva.org.

[Click here for the 2013 Martha Irwin Award nomination form.](#) Nominations must be received by April 30, 2013. For more information, contact [Brian Ursino](#) via email or at 703-350-5103.

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

Delaware DMV Helps Veterans Obtain Commercial Driver's Licenses

The Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles recently established the "Hero's on the Highways" program to allow active duty military members and recently discharged Veterans to waive the pre-trip skills and road test requirements for the issuance of a Class A or B Commercial Driver License (CDL). The new program will aid in securing local employment for military members with truck or heavy equipment driving experience. "The Hero's on the Highways format has been a very successful program in other states," DMV Director Jennifer Cohan said. "By implementing it in Delaware we expect to be able to encourage local employment possibilities for the many military veterans across the state that have experience operating heavy equipment and trucks." [Read the full article in the Middletown Transcript.](#)

Dover Man Headed to Supreme Court Over License Plate Message (New Hampshire)

Three years ago, Dover resident David Montenegro submitted an application to the New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles for a pair of personalized license plates, or vanity plates. Montenegro, an outspoken critic of the police and government behavior, had one particular seven-character message in mind: "COPSLIE." Division employees were not amused by the request. They promptly denied the application, reasoning that the statement "cops lie" was, according to legal documents, "insulting." In response to the initial rejection, Montenegro wrote the division's director and the state commissioner of safety, requesting that they overturn it. But both agreed with the denial, the director writing that "a reasonable person would find COPSLIE offensive to good taste." Unsatisfied, Montenegro applied once again to the department for the plates, but this time he included a list of alternative choices, which he ranked from most to least preferred: "GR8GOVT"; "LUVGOVT"; "GOVTSUX"; "SEALPAC"; "GOVTLAZ." The point, he said, was to determine whether the department had acted objectively in denying his initial request. When his first choice was again denied but his second selection, "GR8GOVT," was approved, Montenegro believed he had evidence that the department had acted arbitrarily and therefore violated his First Amendment right to free speech. Montenegro then turned to the courts early last year, arguing in part that vanity plates constitute a public forum. But a superior court judge in July 2012 sided with the department, ruling that the plates are government property and can therefore be regulated as long as that regulation remains viewpoint neutral. Human, as he is now known, is preparing to appeal that decision before the state Supreme Court later this year. In a somewhat atypical move, the court last

week began soliciting amicus briefs - opinion statements from the public - on the case's principal issue: In denying Montenegro the plates "on the basis that a reasonable person would find it offensive to good taste," did the division violate his right to free speech? [Read the full article in the Concord Monitor.](#)

Christie Administration Joins with Lourdes Medical Center and Organ Donor Programs to Mark Increase in Donor Designations in New Jersey

Citing the nearly 118,000 people nationally waiting to receive a life-saving organ transplant, Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) Chairman and Chief Administrator Raymond P. Martinez, along with representatives of the New Jersey Department of Health, NJ Sharing Network and Gift of Life Donor Program, today visited the Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden to highlight an almost 14 percent increase in donor registrations over the last year. The group also stressed the need for additional organ and tissue donors and called for more registrations in the months ahead. "Between 2011 and 2012, the MVC increased the number of donors registered at an agency by nearly 87,000 people," said Martinez. "While this is a tremendous boost to helping the approximately 5,000 mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters of all ages in New Jersey who are in need of a life-saving organ transplant, our work is far from over." [Read more at state.nj.us.](#)

Former Edison DMV Clerk Who Sold Illegal Driver's Licenses Sentenced to 3 Years in Prison (New Jersey)

A former clerk at the Edison Motor Vehicle Agency was sentenced to three years in state prison Friday, along with a broker who conspired with her in the sales of New Jersey digital driver's licenses to illegal aliens and other unauthorized persons, Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa announced. Lorena J. Escobar, 32, of Bound Brook, was sentenced to three years in prison by Superior Court Judge Stuart A. Minkowitz in Morris County. She pleaded guilty on March 24, 2010 to second-degree conspiracy and provided cooperation in the investigation. The broker, Martha Jalil, 55, of Dover, was sentenced today to five years in state prison. She pleaded guilty on Feb. 23 to second-degree conspiracy. [Read the full article on nj.com.](#)

New York DMV Will Soon Let You Reserve Your Place in Line from Home

The DMV is rolling out technology that will allow you to reserve your place in line from your home computer or smartphone. The agency -- long despised for agonizing waits at its offices -- is in the midst of a customer-service makeover that could make trips there far less of a chore. "Transforming DMV" is the name of the initiative, and it will be a hit with customers if it accomplishes what it sets out to do: Cut customer wait times in half. The move comes on top of last week's extension of hours in some offices -- it's a pilot program that if successful might lead to the Staten Island office being open until about 7 p.m. on most weeknights. Currently it's open no later than 4 p.m. on weekdays, except on Thursdays, when it's open two hours later. A decision on expansion is expected to be made during the summer. "Transforming DMV, which involves premiere customer service, helpful call centers, convenient hours, online services and mobile technology, will be the model for how all state agencies will serve the public," said state DMV Commissioner Barbara Fiala. "It's a New, New York DMV and it only gets better." Other changes expected in the coming months, according to DMV: Self-service kiosks in DMV offices. The kiosks can now be used by customers to renew vehicle, boat or trailer registrations. Additional transactions that can be conducted at the kiosks will be added over time. New apps for smartphones. Updates to the DMV call center, including the installation of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone system which uses virtual queuing technology. [Read the full story at SLive.com.](#)

Immigrant Drivers Bill Before Vermont House Committee

A Vermont House committee is scheduled to hear testimony on a bill that would allow farmworkers in the country illegally to become drivers. Last week, the Senate gave final approval for a bill to create driver privilege cards for people not eligible to get an enhanced driver's license under the federal REAL ID law. The measure is expected to extend driving privileges to 1,200 to 1,500 immigrants, mostly from Mexico and Guatemala and mostly working on Vermont dairy farms who are in the United States without the legally required immigration papers. [Read the full article on boston.com.](#)

Region II News

Ban on Texting While Driving Speeds Through Florida Legislature

The Florida Senate voted unanimously on Tuesday to ban texting while driving, sending the proposal to likely passage in the House of Representatives. "It's become an epidemic," said Senator Nancy Detert, a Republican who has been trying for five years to pass the bill. "This needs to stop." Detert said Florida is one of only five U.S. states that does not currently have any restrictions on texting behind the wheel. She said public opinion polls show 89 percent support for the ban. [Read the full article in the Chicago Tribune.](#)

Legislation Proposes to Ban Use of Social Media While Driving (Louisiana)

Facebook status updates and the latest Instagram selfie taken on the go will have to wait if a potential new state law goes into effect that will prevent social media use while driving. Under Sen. Dale Erdey's Senate Bill 147, drivers will be prohibited from accessing, reading or posting to social media while operating a vehicle. The bill intends to close texting-and-driving loopholes and was approved by the committee and moved into consideration April 10. LSU Police Department Spokesman Capt. Cory Lalonde said such a law would be equally difficult to enforce. [Read the full article in the LSU Reveille.](#)

'F Cancr' License Plate Causing Controversy (Oklahoma)

An Oklahoma man says the "F" in "F Cancr", that's written on his license plate, stands for fight. However, the state Tax Commission wants him to change his custom license plate because people have been complaining about the implied vulgarity. "When I had my surgery, they got 60 percent of it. The other 40 percent was entwined in my brain," Nick Williams, the owner of the license plate, said. At just 32 years old, Williams says he's been through a war and he's still fighting. "My 'F' - it stands for fight. Some people look at it as a different word, but I'm fighting brain cancer. I've had it for about 2 1/2 years now." Williams has had surgery, chemotherapy and countless visits to the hospital. But giving up is not an option for Williams, the father of 5-year-old Kameron. "If it wasn't for him and my wife, I probably would have gave up a long time ago, really," Williams said. So when Williams got a letter from the Oklahoma Tax Commission saying he needed to change his "F Cancr" license plates, he called to plead his case. [Read the full article on 14news.com.](#)

Waiting Time Reduced at South Carolina DMV Offices

A year ago, those arriving at South Carolina's Department of Motor Vehicles' offices sometimes felt discouraged by long lines and waiting times, some of which were more than two hours. No more, the agency's director says. As of this month, he said, the average wait time for the system was fewer than 10 minutes. It's been that way for each month since last spring, he said. That compares to an average wait a year ago of 22 minutes. "It's a Godsend it's under 10 minutes," DMV Executive Director Kevin Shwedo told GreenvilleOnline.com. "That's the first time that's ever happened." [Read the full article on greenvilleonline.com.](#)

Bill Would Allow Driver's Permits for Undocumented (Texas)

A Texas House committee on Wednesday heard testimony on a bill that would allow undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's permits after submitting to background checks, fingerprints and paying about \$150 in fees. House Bill 3206, by state Rep. Roberto Alonzo, D-Dallas, would also mandate that applicants pass a driving test to get the document, which would allow holders to legally register their vehicles and obtain auto insurance. The measure has the support of state Rep. Byron Cook, R-Corsicana, the chairman of the powerful State Affairs Committee, who presided over contentious immigration proposals before the Legislature two years ago. There are about 1.6 million undocumented immigrants in Texas. The bill was left pending in committee, but Cook praised Alonzo's work and willingness to amend the bill and make it more palatable for lawmakers. [Read the full article in the Texas Tribune.](#)

No Confederate Flag License Plates in Texas

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles did not violate the First Amendment by refusing to issue license plates depicting the Confederate battle flag, a federal judge ruled. The state turned down the request for customized plates by the Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), prompting the nonprofit group to sue the DMV Board for constitutional discrimination in December 2011. The SCV consists of male descendants of Confederate veterans who seek "to honor and keep alive the memory of the Confederacy and the principles for which Confederates fought, thus giving the world an understanding and appreciation of the Southern people and their brave history," according to the group's website. The proposed design included the organization's name and its seal bearing the Confederate battle flag. The SCV noted that nine other states, all of them southern, issued similar license plates. [Read the full article in Courthouse News.](#)

Region III News

Iowa Teens Could See Stricter Driving Requirements

Iowa teenagers with a driving permit may have to spend more time learning the rules of the road before they can get their driver's license. Senators voted 41-8 in favor of a bill that would require teens to have their permit for a year instead of six months. The new measure would also require minors to drive around only one unrelated minor for the first six months after getting a license, unless they are accompanied by a parent or unless their parent signs a waiver giving them blanket permission. Current restrictions for minors are limited to the number of seatbelts in their car. Gov. Terry Branstad will review the bill in its final form, if state reps vote in favor of the new requirements. Iowa residents can obtain a driving permit at 14, an intermediate license at 16 and a full license at 18. [Read the full story in Heartland Connection.](#)

Court: No Break for Iowa Truckers over BAC Limit

Unlike ordinary drivers, truck drivers in Iowa will have their licenses suspended if they're caught driving with a blood-alcohol concentration that's barely over the legal limit, the state high court ruled Friday. The Iowa DOT should continue its practice of suspending Commercial Drivers' Licenses for alcohol offenses without considering breath tests' margin of error, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled. Justices rejected an appeal by Brandon D. Watson, who lost his license for one year after a breath test found he had a .041 BAC during a 2010 traffic stop. The limit for CDL holders is .04 when they are operating commercial vehicles. Watson argued the DOT should have subtracted the DataMaster breathalyzer test's .004 margin of error, which means his concentration would have been below the limit. State law requires the DOT to subtract the margin of error when deciding whether to issue suspensions for violations of Iowa's .08 blood alcohol limit for drivers. Watson argued lawmakers intended that provision to apply for CDL suspensions, too. But in a 7-0 ruling, the justices rejected that argument. The provision in question only refers to noncommercial licenses and lawmakers apparently did not intend to

apply the break to the context of CDL suspensions, Justice Daryl Hecht wrote. The court noted that its prior rulings have found that commercial drivers are held to higher standards than others, in part because they are faced with riskier and more difficult tasks. "Having found it logical in the past that the Legislature would distinguish commercial drivers from ordinary drivers in revocation proceedings, we find no reason to dismiss the principle here," Hecht wrote. Iowa has about 170,000 CDL holders, who are primarily truck drivers and a smaller number of people who drive passenger vehicles that seat more than 15. Drivers will lose their licenses for one year for a first offense for driving over the legal limit in commercial vehicles, among other offenses. A second offense carries a lifetime ban. CDL holders can also face sanctions for alcohol offenses in their personal vehicles. Regular drivers caught with blood alcohol-concentrations within the test's margin of error typically are not charged with operating while intoxicated, so those cases never reach the DOT for suspension. More often, the agency sees close calls involving the CDL limit of .04, - about two beers for a 180-pound person.

[Read the full story in The Republic.](#)

Snyder: Michigan Poised to Be a Leader in Autonomous Vehicle Research

Gov. Rick Snyder is hopeful that Lansing soon will approve legislation that would allow researchers to test autonomous vehicles on the open road in Michigan. Allowing such research, he says, is key to southeast Michigan securing a place as a leader in the development of future automotive technology. "Michigan should be a leader in all of this," he said, citing Michigan's background in engineering and manufacturing. "The job opportunities for people in these fields is going to be outstanding." Snyder spoke Monday from inside Michigan Stadium at the start of Michigan Robotics Day, co-sponsored by the University of Michigan and the Ann Arbor-based National Center for Manufacturing Sciences. [Read the full article on annarbor.com.](#)

Supreme Court Rules Police Must Usually Try to Get Warrant Before Testing Blood in DUI Cases (Missouri)

The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that police usually must try to obtain a search warrant from a judge before ordering blood tests for drunken-driving suspects. The justices sided with a Missouri man who was subjected to a blood test without a warrant and found to have nearly twice the legal limit of alcohol in his blood. Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote for the court that the natural dissipation of alcohol in the blood is generally not sufficient reason to jettison the requirement that police get a judge's approval before drawing a blood sample. Missouri and the Obama administration were asking the court to endorse a blanket rule that would have allowed the tests without a warrant. [Read the full article in the Washington Post.](#)

Missouri Senate Passes Bill Preventing Driving Applicants' Documents from Being Scanned

The Missouri Senate has approved legislation barring the state Revenue Department from scanning personal documents shown by people applying for driver's licenses. The department began scanning and retaining documents, such as birth certificates and concealed weapons endorsements, as part of the new licensing procedures in December. Tuesday's 29-5 vote came just a few hours after Gov. Jay Nixon announced the department would stop scanning the concealed weapons permits. Republican lawmakers have raised concerns that the documents held in a state computer system are an invasion of privacy. [Read the full article in the Republic.](#)

Missouri Concealed Weapons Policies Fuel Driver's License Flap

Republican lawmakers' concerns about new driver's license procedures are being exacerbated by the state's unique system for marking concealed weapons endorsements. Missouri appears to be the only state whose license bureaus also issue concealed weapons endorsements in conjunction with driver's

licenses. In Missouri the endorsements are doled out by the sheriff's office but the permits are printed by the Department of Revenue. Permit holders can choose whether they want to have the endorsement printed on their driver's license or on a separate non-driving identification card. Of the roughly 178,000 concealed weapon permit holders, 174,450 Missourians choose to have the endorsement printed on a non-driver's card, according to figures from the Revenue Department. But those cards are still processed at the license bureaus by the Revenue Department. Now that the department is scanning and retaining applicants' personal documents, including concealed weapons endorsements, Republicans and gun rights advocates are concerned the information could be shared with the federal government. [Read the full article in the Kansas City Star.](#)

Ohio BMV To Begin Issuing Temporary Driver Licenses To Qualified DACA Grantees

Today the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) instructed the state's Deputy Registrars to begin issuing temporary driver licenses to qualified Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) grantees, but only after first confirming applicants' immigration documents via the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) database. The extra security steps are designed to combat fraud or the use of counterfeit documents. BMV's decision was established after reviewing guidance expressed by Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine that DACA grantees are eligible for temporary driver licenses under Ohio law. The BMV's instructions to Deputy Registrars will ensure consistent procedures are followed statewide when issuing the temporary licenses. Confirmation of applicants' immigrant documents will be made via the federal government's immigration database to verify their authenticity. Upon verification of applicants' documents they will be issued a non-renewable/temporary license valid for the time period of their work authorization issued by USCIS, not to exceed two years. [Read more at *publicsafety.ohio.gov*.](#)

Ohio Justices Uphold BMV's \$5 Fee

The Ohio Supreme Court has let stand a \$5 Bureau of Motor Vehicles fee that trucking companies and insurers have now twice failed to derail. In a ruling released this morning, the justices voted 6-0 to uphold the fee the BMV charges to provide certified copies of commercial drivers' license histories to employers and insurance carriers. Motor Carrier Service Inc., a Columbus trucking company, argued that the fee was illegal since Ohio's public records law requires governments to provide copies of records at cost, typically 5 cents a page. However, justices found that the public records law is subordinate to the federal and state driver-privacy protection laws the BMV cited to impose the \$5 fee. Under the privacy laws, the bureau must remove drivers' personal information from public records it releases. But the same law permits the BMV to provide unredacted copies to employers and insurers and it charges the \$5 fee for that service. The state receives nearly \$11 million a year from the fee for certified copies of commercial drivers' licenses and related traffic violations. The fee was increased from \$2 to \$5 in 2009. In the prior challenge by trucking and insurance companies, the Supreme Court ruled late last year that the state constitution allows money from the fees to be used for purposes other than road maintenance. Part of the fees are dedicated to homeland security, emergency services and other uses. [Read the full story in the Columbus Dispatch.](#)

Ohio's New License Plate Design Now Available

Ohio's new license plate design is out. The state is phasing out its old license plate and offering the new design starting Monday. It's called "Ohio Pride" and its background features 46 slogans describing the Buckeye State. The Cincinnati Enquirer reports that Gov. John Kasich went to the Columbus College of Art and Design to recruit students to help design the new plates. Ohioans voted on the slogans, which include "America's Heartland," "Underground Railroad" and "With God All Things Are Possible." The old

"Beautiful Ohio" plates will be available for purchase until June 30, or until they run out. Those replaced the "Sunburst" plates over a six-month period in 2010. [Read the full article at abc22now.com.](#)

Slesnick Seeks to Eliminate Second License Plate Requirement (Ohio)

Rep. Stephen Slesnick re-introduced his bill from the last legislative session that would reduce the number of license plates that vehicles in Ohio have to display from two to one. If it becomes law, motorists would only have to have a rear license plate with a validation sticker. Current law requires a license plate on the front and rear of an Ohio-registered vehicle. The House Transportation, Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee approved Slesnick's bill in the last session. But the House Republican leadership didn't allow the bill to proceed to the floor for a vote. [Read the full story in the Times Reporter.](#)

Are Paper Vehicle Titles Facing Extinction? (South Dakota)

Could an electronic titling system that tracks the sales of vehicles from the manufacturer to a dealer and ultimately, to a consumer, work effectively in the U.S.? In September, South Dakota and a handful of other states are going to find out. The South Dakota Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is spearheading a federal pilot program that will test whether a completely electronic method of vehicle-titling is feasible. If successful, the project could set the stage to eliminate the traditional paper title and transfer process in years to come. "We talk about this as an industry, and one of the biggest concerns you hear is the timeframe that it takes to get a paper title -- and then signing it and sending it and everything else," said Deb Hillmer, director of the South Dakota DMV. "So we're really looking at how we can move that process to an electronic means, similar to how a lot of contracts are done today." Hillmer added that the project will involve "six or seven" states out of a working group that includes Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin. [Read the full article on govtech.com.](#)

Senate Approves Letting Drivers Show Proof of Insurances on Smartphones (Wisconsin)

Drivers could use their smartphone to show police they have auto insurance, under a bill passed by the state Senate Wednesday. It now heads to the Assembly. Currently, drivers have to provide law enforcement with a copy of their proof of minimum insurance coverage if requested. If the driver doesn't have a copy of the coverage on hand, he or she will be cited but can later produce proof of insurance in court to avoid the fine. The legislation could make that process easier for some drivers by allowing them to show the police officer the proof of insurance using a smartphone or other electronic device. It will remain a crime to forge or falsify proof of insurance documents. Drivers in Wisconsin are required to carry minimum liability coverage of \$25,000 for the injury or death of a person; \$50,000 for the injury or death of more than one person; and \$10,000 for property damage. [Read the full story in JS On-Line.](#)

Region IV News

Arizona Law Discourages Traffic Cameras on State Roads

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer has signed legislation that makes it more difficult for cities to set up speed and red-light cameras. Cities must now provide statistical evidence that the cameras, if installed on state roads, will increase safety in the area. Cameras already installed on these routes can stay in place for the rest of their current permits, but once these permits expire, cities must reapply. If cities don't have sufficient evidence that the cameras have decreased speeding and accidents, they must be removed. The new law reflects the governor's disapproval of photo radar as a means of generating revenue to solve budget woes. In 2009, former Gov. Janet Napolitano, had signed a contract with Redflex Traffic Systems

to put 100 speed cameras on state roads. Brewer ended this contract in 2010, and the newest law goes a step further in eliminating what her predecessors had put in place. The law, however, does not address speed and red-light cameras on local, city roads. [Read the full story in Roads & Bridges Magazine.](#)

AM Alert: California DMV Wants Input on Rules for Robot Cars

You might associate automated cars with futuristic movies starring a certain former California governor, but they're closer to becoming a reality. Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill to regulate the fledgling industry in September, and today the California Department of Motor Vehicles is seeking public input. The DMV workshop will be the first of its kind, an opportunity for participants to weigh in and offer comments on what forthcoming regulations on driverless cars should contain. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Department of General Services auditorium, located at 707 Third Street in West Sacramento.

[Read the full article in the Sacramento Bee.](#)

California Prohibits Cell Phones While Driving

California police aren't just looking out for people texting and driving anymore, as a new California driving law prohibits drivers from even touching their phones while they are operating a vehicle. The revision was made in late March after a California driver, Steve R. Spriggs, tried to appeal a ticket he was issued in 2012 for using a GPS application on his cellphone while driving. "Our review of the statute's plain language leads us to conclude that the primary evil sought to be avoided is the distraction the driver faces when using his or her hands to operate the phone," said Judge W. Kent Hamlin of the Superior Court of California on the final ruling of the case. Prior to the revision, the language of Section 23123 of the California Vehicle Code, last revised in 2010, had not been tailored to the growing audience of cell phone app users. Instead, the law was solely focused on banning drivers from making phone calls or texting while driving. [Read the full article in the Retriever Weekly.](#)

Waiver Attracts Fewer Than Expected (California)

A controversial program that gives young unauthorized immigrants a temporary waiver from deportation has attracted far fewer people than was initially projected after its launch last summer. The factors may be President Barack Obama's re-election, a \$465 application fee and the prospect of large-scale immigration reform this year, immigration experts said. In addition, a considerable number of people meet all of the program's requirements except for not yet being 15 - the minimum age to apply. And some have not satisfied the education standard because they are not currently enrolled in school or lack a high school diploma or General Educational Development certification. The result: As of March 14, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program had received 469,530 applications since it began in mid-August. That compares with the Migration Policy Institute's estimate of 1.7 million unauthorized immigrants who would be eligible immediately or eventually. [Read the full article in the San Diego Union-Tribune.](#)

Palm Desert DMV Employee Accused of Stealing Customers' Credit Card Info (California)

A Desert Hot Springs man who works at the Palm Desert Department of Motor Vehicles was jailed Thursday on forgery and theft charges, accused of stealing credit card information from customers, sheriff's officials said. 24-year-old Martin Mendoza was arrested Thursday at the DMV office on Technology Drive, according to Sheriff's Sergeant Brad Farwell. Farwell said that the investigation into Mendoza's alleged criminal activities began after two people- one in January and another in March- reported to police that their credit cards had been stolen and used "immediately after" they had visited the DMV. [Read the full article in the Palm Desert Patch.](#)

[Audit Finds State Not Collecting All Owed on Special License Plates \(California\)](#)

California motorists can get specialized license plates with pictures of whales, firefighters and palm trees to benefit certain state programs, but the state auditor said Thursday the state has failed to collect up to \$22 million owed for the plates. In addition, state Auditor Elaine Howle found that state agencies that receive money from the special plates have not properly handled the cash. "This report concludes that the State has not collected all revenue due from special plates and has spent some of the special plate revenue on expenditures that were unallowable or unsupported," Howle wrote to Gov. Jerry Brown. Her office estimated the California Department of Motor Vehicles did not collect \$12 million in revenue it was required charge to those who want to hold on to special plates after they become inactive during the two fiscal years ending June 30, 2012. [Read the full article in the Los Angeles Times.](#)

[DMV Now Offering Email Registration Renewal Reminder \(California\)](#)

California DMV customers can now receive email reminders to renew their vehicle registration. The new online program launched in October 2012 and already has 122,886 customers enrolled. Customers who sign up will get an email reminder 30 days from the expiration date of their vehicle(s) registration and another email seven days prior to expiration. Due to statutory restrictions, customers will still receive the paper renewal notice in the mail. To sign up for email reminders, customers must register as a user on [DMV's website](#), add a vehicle, vessel or motorcycle to their personalized account and "opt in" to receive email reminders. In the email reminder, customers can also click on a link that allows them to renew their registration online in just minutes. If you sell your vehicle you must go into your account and remove that vehicle or you will still receive email reminders. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

[DMV Investigators Bust Counterfeit ID Mill \(California\)](#)

Investigators from the California DMV arrested Sandra Luz Davey Higuera 61, and Eloy Gonzalez 68, on April 3, 2013, alleging several felony counts of manufacturing counterfeit government identity documents and falsification of state and federal seals. With the assistance of the LAPD, DMV investigators served a search warrant at the suspect's residence in the city of Los Angeles and seized computers, printers, laminating equipment, cameras, card stock and other supplies used in the making of fraudulent documents. Also seized were counterfeit Temporary Operating Permits and Temporary Driver Licenses. The four month investigation is a result of DMV receiving information that temporary California Driver Licenses were being counterfeited and sold. Both suspects were booked into the Los Angeles County Jail. This action continued the Department's focus on identity fraud and counterfeiting to enhance consumer protection and security of vital documents. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

[Bill Would OK Licenses for Illegal Immigrants \(Colorado\)](#)

Colorado residents who are in the country illegally may soon be able to obtain driver's licenses, after a bill proposing such a measure passed a state legislative committee on April 10. State Senate Bill 251 would allow immigrants to apply for state-issued IDs that are only meant to be used for driving purposes. Democratic Sen. Jessie Ulibarri of Commerce City, the bill's sponsor, said during an April 10 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that the measure would result in a reduction of unlicensed and uninsured motorists in Colorado. Ulibarri said immigrants are driving anyway, and that it's in everyone's benefit that they are doing so lawfully and are carrying proper insurance. [Read the full article on ourcoloradonews.com.](#)

[Otter Lets Organ Donor Bill Become Law without His Signature \(Idaho\)](#)

Idaho Gov. Butch Otter has allowed a twice-amended bill to promote organ donation to become law without his signature. The bill, SB 1072aa, allows Idahoans to make a voluntary \$2 contribution to an organ donation fund when they apply for or renew their driver's licenses; the money would go to

maintaining a statewide organ donation registry. Otter, in a transmittal letter, said that while he supports organ donation as "a simple and effective way for citizens to save or dramatically improve a life," he has concerns about how the program would work at the Idaho Transportation Department and how it would impact ITD's vehicle registration systems. He directed ITD, the Legislature and others involved with the bill to make sure the department's costs for collecting the donations and administering the new fund would be covered by the donations. [Read the full story in the Spokesman Review.](#)

Two New License Plates Now Available (Nevada)

Specialty license plates for the March of Dimes and Teamsters Local Union No. 631 are now available for purchase at Nevada DMV offices. The specialty plates will cost an initial \$61 and \$30 for renewal. The organizations will receive \$25 from the initial issue and \$20 from renewals. The March of Dimes applied for a special license plate to increase awareness of the seriousness of preterm births. Funds from the special license plate will be used for evidence-based health care programs for pregnant women in Nevada designed to reduce preterm births. Funds will be used for the March of Dimes Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Family Support, which provides critical private sector support to families who have an infant admitted to the NICU. The Teamsters Local Union No. 631 is a non-profit organization with four locals in Nevada, representing 14,500 members in the state. Proceeds from the special license plate will support the United Labor Agency of Nevada (ULAN), which provides union members, their families and the community at large with assistance through the ULAN Basic Needs program. The program provides services that assist individuals and families who have been victims of an accident, illness, loss of employment, reduced work hours or other hardship. Services include emergency financial assistance for rent or mortgage to prevent eviction; utility payments to avoid disconnection; and food and food gift cards to sustain nutritional needs. [Read the full article at dmvnv.com.](#)

Driver Licenses Could be Issued for Eight Years (Nevada)

Drivers in Nevada would be allowed to renew their licenses every eight years, instead of every four, under a bill that has passed the Senate Transportation Committee. The committee approved Senate Bill 503 on Friday, and a Senate-Assembly budget subcommittee was presented information about the proposal. A four-year license carries a fee of \$18.50, which would double to \$37 for an eight-year license. Drivers over 65 years old will still have to renew their license every four years, with no increase in the \$13.50 fee. The change would be phased in by 2018. Individuals with odd-numbered birth years would receive four-year licenses, and those with even-numbered birth years would be issued an eight-year license when their current permits expire. By Jan. 1, 2018, all licenses and identification cards would have an eight-year term. [Read the full story in the Last Vegas Sun.](#)

Robo-car Bill Stalls as ODOT Moves Forward with 'Connected Car' Study (Oregon)

This week, a panel of transportation engineers in Detroit predicted that the only way to make significant strides in managing driver distraction in the future is to let cars control themselves. But it doesn't look like Oregon is ready to join California, Nevada and other states in allowing driverless cars to be tested on its roads and highways. On Wednesday, House Bill 2428, which sought to establish a process for allowing the operation of autonomous vehicles in Oregon, died in committee. "We didn't get to the point where stakeholders could get to the same spot," Chairman Tobias Read said. "The technology isn't going to do anything but advance. At some point, we will need to make decisions in the Legislature. The more prepared we are, the better." The Oregon DOT was among those concerned about the bill. The agency is in the process of conducting a study of "a little bit different" technology and is apparently worried about the bill getting in the way. The agency is focusing on the potential needs of partially-automated "connected cars." The study, expected to be completed within the next two years, could be used as a

"bridge" to eventually licensing driverless vehicles such as the Google Car. At the same time, some lawmakers on the committee still appeared to be more afraid of robo-cars than intrigued by the technology's promise to help with many of the state's myriad safety, accessibility, environmental, economic and planning challenges. In the wake of the Boston Marathon tragedy, Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, even expressed concern that driverless cars could be used as pilotless "drones" to deliver armed bombs to commit acts of terrorism. Currently, driverless car technology, which relies on cameras, radar and lasers, won't operate without someone in the driver's seat. "Hopefully we can draw some lessons from the ODOT study if this comes up again," Read said. "Maybe the ODOT study will be sufficient" to establish guidelines for driverless cars. A panel of engineers at the the 2013 SAE World Congress in Detroit on Tuesday predicted that driverless cars will be widely used on the roads by 2025. [Read the full story in The Oregonian.](#)

[Oregon Panel Passes Immigrant Driver's License Bill](#)

Oregon Senate committee has advanced a bill granting four-year driver's licenses to people who can't prove they're legally in the United States. The bill would allow immigrants who have lived in Oregon for at least a year and meet other requirements to apply for driver's cards without proving legal presence. The card would be valid for only four years- half as long as a standard Oregon license- and would state "driving privilege only." [Read the full article in the San Francisco Chronicle.](#)

[Governor Introduces Bill to Address Drunken Driving \(Washington\)](#)

Gov. Jay Inslee and a bipartisan group of lawmakers unveiled a plan Tuesday that would make changes to the state's impaired driving laws, such as requiring an arrest on the first offense and mandatory jail time if offenders don't enroll in a sobriety program after a second arrest. The measure also would prohibit people from purchasing alcohol for 10 years after a third conviction of drunken driving, and it would require mandatory installment of interlock devices on cars after someone is charged, rather than convicted, unless an exception is made by a court. Inslee called the plan the "most aggressive, the most effective, the most ambitious program to reduce drunk driving on our roads." The proposal sets mandatory minimum jail times for second and third offenses, but offenders can avoid jail on the second offense if they enroll in a substance abuse program that requires them to take frequent breathalyzer tests. The program is modeled after one in South Dakota. On a third offense, they would be sentenced to 364 days in jail and issued an identification card that would prohibit them from purchasing alcohol for a decade. Inslee said the costs of the measure haven't yet been determined, but they are "not insignificant." The legislation comes in the wake of two recent fatal accidents. Last month, a suspected drunken driver slammed into a family crossing the street in a residential Seattle neighborhood, a crash that critically injured a 10-day-old infant and his mother and killed his grandparents. Earlier this month, a Seattle woman was killed in a crash with a wrong-way driver. "The victims don't have a chance, they don't have a second chance," said Rep. Roger Goodman. "So why are we giving the drunk drivers a second chance to kill? We need tougher laws." [Read the full story in The Spokesman.](#)

[Lawmakers May Block CIA from Fake Licenses \(Washington\)](#)

Washington lawmakers are looking to block the Central Intelligence Agency from using a state program to get fake driver's licenses. A measure approved by the House on Tuesday would allow undercover law enforcement officers to continue getting access to fake IDs. Rep. Judy Clibborn says the program should be available to protect undercover investigations but shouldn't be available to the CIA. Rep. Jason Overstreet wasn't satisfied that the measure gave the program sufficient safeguards. He says the Department of Licensing had failed to provide sufficient information about how the program currently operates. In response to a public records request, the department last month provided a list of agencies issued confidential licenses since 2007. The CIA topped the list with 288, followed by the Defense

Department with 198, then followed mostly by police agencies in the state. But, when the department released the list Friday by email, it lumped together all federal law enforcement agencies without naming them, saying that's classified. The category of all federal law enforcement agencies accounted for 595 licenses, or 53 percent of the 1,121 issued. The program was secret until the paper's public records request prompted the Department of Licensing to request legislation to protect officers from disclosure and setting out guidelines. The bill quietly passed the Senate but raised questions in the House's Transportation Committee where some lawmakers were surprised to find no one knows for sure when or why the program began. Amended legislation will add safeguards. Sponsors said fake IDS should be used only for the duration of an undercover officer's covert assignment. The bill now awaits a vote on the House floor. [Read the full story in the Seattle Times.](#)

Other News

Clean, Safe and It Drives Itself

SOME inventions, like some species, seem to make periodic leaps in progress. The car is one of them. Twenty-five years elapsed between Karl Benz beginning small-scale production of his original Motorwagen and the breakthrough, by Henry Ford and his engineers in 1913, that turned the car into the ubiquitous, mass-market item that has defined the modern urban landscape. By putting production of the Model T on moving assembly lines set into the floor of his factory in Detroit, Ford drastically cut the time needed to build it, and hence its cost. Thus began a revolution in personal mobility. Almost a billion cars now roll along the world's highways. Today the car seems poised for another burst of evolution. One way in which it is changing relates to its emissions. As emerging markets grow richer, legions of new consumers are clamouring for their first set of wheels. For the whole world to catch up with American levels of car ownership, the global fleet would have to quadruple. Even a fraction of that growth would present fearsome challenges, from congestion and the price of fuel to pollution and global warming... Meanwhile, a variety of "driver assistance" technologies are appearing on new cars, which will not only take a lot of the stress out of driving in traffic but also prevent many accidents. More and more new cars can reverse-park, read traffic signs, maintain a safe distance in steady traffic and brake automatically to avoid crashes. Some carmakers are promising technology that detects pedestrians and cyclists, again overruling the driver and stopping the vehicle before it hits them. A number of firms, including Google, are busy trying to take driver assistance to its logical conclusion by creating cars that drive themselves to a chosen destination without a human at the controls. This is where it gets exciting. [Read the full article in the Economist](#)

Did You Know...

- *Superman made his first appearance in "Action Comics" No. 1 in June 1938. It is considered one of the world's most valuable comic books.*
- *Superman is 6 feet, 3 inches, 235 pounds. He has blue eyes and black hair.*
- *According the DC Comics' official guide to Superman, Clark Kent's favorite sandwich is peanut butter-and-jelly and his favorite sport is football.*
- *His birthday is Feb. 29. This makes Superman's zodiac sign Pisces.*
- *His "base of operations"? Fortress of Solitude, Hall of Justice or Metropolis. Or where ever crime needs fighting.*
- *He is a founding member of the Justice League of America. League members have changed over the years, but original members include Aquaman, Batman, the Flash, Green Lantern, Martian Manhunter, Superman and Wonder Woman.*
- *DC Comics says it is "generally accepted" that he has the ability to lift at least 1,000,000 tons.*

- *According to DC Comics, his "greatest feat of durability" was withstanding the explosion of a sun -- although the blast did temporarily knock him out.*
- *Superman also has an indomitable will, "completely free of evil or temptation." DC Comics adds: Superman "is very optimistic and never gives up, even when things look bad."*