

## Regional News – May 17, 2013

### Tidbits

#### Check out the TWIRcast!

Head over to the [Media Center at AAMVA.org](#) or [AAMVA's YouTube channel](#) to get the latest in news and events affecting the AAMVA community, in our our brand new [TWIRcast](#):



#### Make your Region IV Conference Hotel Reservations Now!!!

The Omni Interlocken is ready to make your hotel reservation for the 2013 Region IV conference. Make your reservations by calling 1-800-THE-OMNI or online [here](#). The reservations cut-off date is May 31, but the hotel is nearing capacity for Thursday eve (June 27) so please don't delay. It is possible that you may receive a higher rate on Thursday night due to limited availability. The conference rate is \$128.

#### 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](#). 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](mailto:dgraham@aamva.org) or phone (703) 908-8267. For more information, see <http://www.aamva.org/Committees-and-Working-Groups/>.

## Region I News

#### Bill Proposes Ignition Interlock for New York State School Buses

There is a bill in the New York State Legislature, proposing that school buses be equipped with ignition interlocks, to prevent operators from driving drunk. However, a state wide association representing bus companies claims installing the devices would be an expensive waste of taxpayer money. [Read the full article at wgrz.com](#)

#### Pennsylvanians Can Honor Vets with License Plate

As we come up on Memorial Day, we have a great way for you to support veterans year round. State Representative Greg Lucas showed off the "Honoring our Veterans" license plate and the Girard VFW on Thursday. Anyone can purchase a plate for \$35, and \$15 of that will go to the Veterans Trust Fund. The fund helps vets and their families with things like health care and shelter services. [Read the full article on erietvnews.com](#)

#### Senate OKs Driver's License Bill (Pennsylvania)

The state Senate has approved legislation sponsored by Sen. Elder Vogel regarding commercial driver's license qualification standards for military personnel. Currently, military personnel and veterans who have two years experience driving a military commercial vehicle are eligible to waive the commercial driver's license skills test when certain criteria are met. One requirement states that the applicant is

eligible for waiver if he has legally operated certain equipment for at least two years "immediately preceding" application for a commercial driver's license. [Read the full article in New Castle News](#)

## Region II News

### **Panthers Players Connected to State Investigation into DMV (North Carolina)**

A 9 Investigation found that the Carolina Panthers have been connected to a state investigation into the Department of Motor Vehicles. In the last year, two DMV examiners in Newton were charged with giving licenses to people without making them take a test. New indictments said members of the Panthers went to Newton, about 50 minutes from the stadium, just to get a license. [Read the full article on wsocvtv.com](#)

### **Oklahoma Governor Signs Tax-cut, Driver's License Fee-hike Bills**

Both a tax-cut measure and a bill to increase what Oklahomans pay to obtain and renew their driver's licenses were signed into law Monday by Gov. Mary Fallin. The highly touted income tax cut will reduce the state's top tax rate from 5.25 percent to 5 percent in 2015. It will result in an \$82 average in savings per individual tax return, according to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. [Read the full article in Tulsa World.](#)

### **South Carolina Senate Moves to Suspend Eye-exam Rule for Drivers**

Drivers in violation of a state law requiring them to take an eye exam each five years may be getting a break from the Senate. The Senate has voted to suspend a part of the law that penalizes drivers who fail to take an eye exam. [Read the full article in the State.](#)

### **Governor Signs Ignition Interlock Bill (Tennessee)**

Tennessee's ignition interlock law will apply to more drunken drivers under legislation signed by Gov. Bill Haslam. Currently, ignition-locking devices, which force drivers to pass breath tests to start vehicles and keep them running, are required for DUI offenders whose blood alcohol level topped 0.15%. This bill drops the level to the intoxication threshold of 0.08% and would require first-time offenders to get the devices. In turn, those convicted of DUI won't get a restricted driver's license and will be allowed to drive anywhere. [Read the full article at wate.com](#)

### **Texas Bill Would Let Doctors Get Data From Driver's Licenses**

Health care providers in Texas could soon collect or verify patient information by swiping that patient's driver's license. The measure allowing such data collection is one of a handful that the Texas Medical Association is pushing this legislative session to help modernize medical practices. The association is also backing bills that would standardize preauthorization forms used by health plans for prescription drugs and health care services. [Read the full article in the New York Times](#)

## Region III News

### **"Kelsey's Law" Poised to Close Teen Driver Loophole (Illinois)**

Proposed legislation named in honor of a Minooka teen nearly killed in a 2011 traffic accident is now one step closer to law after it sailed through the Illinois Senate last week. If signed by Gov. Pat Quinn, "Kelsey's Law" would prohibit any teen with unresolved traffic citations from getting a state driver's license. Sources said Quinn supports the proposed legislation. [Read the full article on nbcchicago.com](#)

### **License Plate Renewal Changes Will Save More Than \$1 Million (Illinois)**

Secretary of State Jesse White's office said it is on target to save more than \$1 million from changes it's implemented in its license plate renewal process. The changes basically involve eliminating some of the paperwork involved in people obtaining new license plate stickers each year. "We've become very green and try to be as efficient as possible," said White spokesman Dave Druker. [Read the full article in the State Journal-Register](#)

### **[Proposal to Raise Registration Fees for Electric Cars Resurfaces \(Iowa\)](#)**

Owners of cars that run solely on electricity would no longer get a big break on their registration fees under a proposal that's been revived at the statehouse. Currently there's a flat, \$25 annual registration fee for electric cars, but fees for other vehicles are based on weight and value. Senator Tod Bowman, a Democrat from Maquoketa, says there are fewer than four dozen of these cars licensed in Iowa today, models like the Nissan Leaf and the TESLA Roadster. [Read the full article on Radio Iowa](#)

### **[Iowa Driver's Licenses Online Without a Vision Test](#)**

Iowa drivers will be able to renew their driver's licenses online under a bill signed into law by the governor. Governor Terry Branstad signed the bill Wednesday. It allows drivers between 18 and 72 to renew their driver's licenses through the state Department of Transportation's website without passing a vision test. The bill also extends the time licenses are valid from five years to eight years. [Read the full article on heartlandconnection.com](#)

### **[Snyder Sign Bills for Vets Driver's Licenses, IDs \(Michigan\)](#)**

Gov. Rick Snyder has signed legislation to allow Michigan veterans to get a special designation on their driver's license or state ID card. The Republican signed the bill during a ceremony in his office Tuesday in the Capitol. The Senate Fiscal Agency estimates it will cost nearly \$700,000 over a number of years. [Read the full article in the San Francisco Chronicle](#)

### **[Immigrants Stage Hunger Strike over Driver's Licenses \(Minnesota\)](#)**

A group of Latino immigrants here say they are on a hunger strike, which they pledge to stick to until Minnesota's governor meets with them about a pending driver's license bill. Nestor Gomez of the activist group Minnesota Mesa Latina said he hasn't eaten since early Monday and hopes the action will spur Gov. Mark Dayton, a Democrat, to talk to his group. He said a meeting scheduled previously was being postponed indefinitely. The state Legislature's regular session for this year, the first half of a two-year session, ends Monday. [Read the full article on USA Today.](#)

### **[Missouri Lawmakers Pass Bill Halting the Scanning of Personal Documents](#)**

Less than six months after the state Revenue Department began scanning driving applicants' personal documents into a state computer system, Missouri lawmakers sent the governor legislation Wednesday that would force the department to stop. Republican lawmakers began pushing for the measure after learning about the new license procedures early in the legislative session. The push accelerated in March after a Stoddard County man filed a lawsuit challenging the procedures. It said that scanning documents, such as birth certificates and concealed weapons permits, were an invasion of privacy. Revenue Department officials said they provided increased security and cut down on fraud. [Read the full article in the Kansas City Star.](#)

### **[Lawmakers Seek to Reinstate Local Tax for Vehicles in Missouri](#)**

Missouri lawmakers hope the third time will be the charm in their quest to reinstate local taxes on cars, trucks and boats purchased from out-of-state dealers or in private transactions. State and local officials have keyed on the tax issue for more than a year while raising fears about lost jobs, business hardships

for Missouri vehicle dealers and declining revenue for cities and counties. Lawmakers gave final legislative approval Monday to the most recent effort to allow cities and counties to continue their local taxes. It was paired this time with the creation of a new relief fund aimed particularly at the Joplin tornado. [Read the full article in the Kansas City Star.](#)

### **State Lawmakers Want to Change Dual License Plate Law for Drivers (Ohio)**

A pair of state lawmakers are working to make Ohio a one-plate state for motorists. State Reps. Terry Johnson, a Republican from McDermott, and Stephen Slesnick, a Democrat from Canton, sponsored legislation to require vehicle owners only need to display one Ohio license plate on the rear bumper of their vehicles. [Read the full article on cleveland.com](#)

## **Region IV News**

### **Judge Allows Arizona Immigrant Driver's License Policy Move Forward**

A judge on Thursday refused to halt Gov. Jan Brewer's order that denies driver's licenses for young immigrants in Arizona who have gotten work permits and avoided deportation under an Obama administration policy. The decision by U.S. District Judge David Campbell rejects the argument by immigrant rights advocates who said Brewer's policy was unconstitutional because it's trumped by federal law. [Read the full article on FoxNews.com](#)

### **Nevada Legislators Take Aim at Snowbirds**

In addition to Nevada State Assembly Bills 166 and 167 - commonly known as the commuter tax - members of that chamber's Transportation Committee have penned another bill designed to generate revenue from individuals who do not reside in Nevada. If passed, Assembly Bill 405 would require seasonal residents, commonly known as snowbirds, and out-of-state students to register their vehicles with the state and to obtain a seasonal decal for display on the vehicle. [Read the full article in the Mojave Daily News.](#)

### **Other States Join New Mexico in Granting Driver's Licenses to Illegal Immigrants**

Gone are the days when New Mexico and Washington were the only states to issue driver's licenses to immigrants in the country illegally. Last week, the governors of Oregon and Maryland signed bills that will allow state residents without proof of immigration status to obtain driver's licenses. Illinois authorized a driver's license law for illegal immigrants earlier this year. Colorado legislators on Wednesday approved a similar bill, though no Republicans voted for it. Colorado's governor, Democrat John Hickenlooper, has not said whether he will sign the bill into law. Rhode Island, Connecticut and Washington, D.C., are considering expanding their driver's license laws to include those without proof of immigration status. [Read the full article in the Las Cruces Sun-News](#)

### **Utah Senator Considers Cutting State's Drunk Driving Threshold**

The Utah senator who takes the lead in setting state liquor policy on Wednesday said lawmakers will closely consider the National Transportation Safety Board's recommendation that states reduce their drunk-driving thresholds. Sen. John Valentine, R-Orem, said they will look for guidance from European nations that have seen fatalities decline after prohibiting driving with a blood-alcohol concentration above 0.05 - more than a third lower than the U.S. standard of 0.08. [Read the full article in the Salt Lake Tribune](#)

### **Washington State Courts Hacked; Potentially up to 160,000 Social Security Numbers Accessed**

The Washington state Administrative Office of the Courts was hacked sometime between last fall and February, and up to 160,000 Social Security numbers and 1 million driver's license numbers may have been accessed during the data breach of its public website, officials said Thursday. Court officials said they have only confirmed that 94 Social Security numbers were obtained and they don't believe the larger number was compromised, but they wanted to alert the public to the possibility as a precaution. [Read the full article in the Washington Post](#)

### **State Senate Committee OKs Tougher Impaired Driving Law (Washington)**

A Senate committee on Tuesday advanced a bill to make changes to the state's impaired driving laws, including making driving under the influence a felony on the fourth conviction, rather than the current law that has it at five within 10 years. The legislation was sparked by recent fatal accidents in the state, including a March incident where 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 child and his mother and killed his grandparents. [Read the full article on komonews.com](#)

## **Other News**

### **U.S. Bill Would Give Canadian Snowbirds More Time to Spend in the Sun**

Canadian snowbirds may soon be able to spend an extra two months nesting in their favourite sunshine state each year. U.S. legislation winding its way through Congress would allow Canadians aged 55 and older to spend up to 240 days - about eight months - in the country without a visa, 58 days longer than the current 182-day annual limit. The provision is not yet law, but it has the backing of powerful New York Sen. Charles Schumer, who was recently one of the leading voices to speak out against a rejected proposal to impose a border crossing fee on Canadians. [Read the full article on ilstv.com](#)

### **Autonomous Cars Will Probably Hit China First -- And That's Okay**

Here's what we know about autonomous cars:

- A. They're coming.
- B. They'll wreak havoc among automakers, with upstarts like Google emerging as viable competitors.
- C. They'll have an effect on related sectors, too -- like auto insurance.

What we don't know about autonomous cars is when they'll arrive in showrooms, or when they'll become dominant on roadways. However, Detroit News suggests that Americans may not be the first folks on Planet Earth to slip behind those high-tech wheels. That honor has a good chance of going to China. [Read the full article in the Car Connection.](#)

### **Motor Vehicle Crashes: A Little-known Risk to Returning Veterans**

For men and women who have fought in the country's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, death behind the wheel is becoming another lethal aftereffect of combat. After they leave military service, veterans of the two wars have a 75 percent higher rate of fatal motor vehicle accidents than do civilians. Troops still in uniform have a higher risk of crashing their cars in the months immediately after returning from deployment than in the months immediately before. People who have had multiple tours to combat zones are at highest risk for traffic accidents. [Read the full article on Delaware Online](#)

## **Did You Know...**

*Did you know...*

- *The line, "To boldly go where no man has gone before" was hijacked verbatim from a 1957 White House booklet on space exploration. It is one of the more famous examples of a split infinitive and is grammatically incorrect.*

- *Martin Landau was supposed to play the part of Spock. He was contractually bound to the Mission Impossible cast. Later, when Star Trek was cancelled, Nimoy joined the cast of Mission Impossible by literally just walking across the street to the IM set.*
- *Spock's first name is Edward.*
- *The actor who played "Scotty" was shot six times during D-Day.*
- *Leonard Nimoy came up with the Vulcan Nerve Pinch - he felt a non-violent nerve pinch would be fitting with Vulcans' ability to emit energy from their fingertips*
- *In the first two seasons of Star Trek: The Next Generation, the actors' uniforms were extremely tight, made out of one-piece spandex. Patrick Stewart's chiropractor told him if he kept wearing them, it would cause real and possibly permanent damage to his spine.*
- *No one in the original Star Trek show ever stated "Beam me up, Scotty."*