

Regional News – June 28, 2013

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Registration is Open for the 2013 Annual International Conference

Registration for AAMVA's 2013 Annual International Conference (AIC) is now open and we are excited to offer an online registration process. No more paper registration forms! Once you click [Register Now](#), you will be prompted to login. If you have not logged into AAMVA before, you will have to create a "My AAMVA" user profile. To create this profile and receive AAMVA log in credentials, follow the instructions in [this document](#).

Region IV Conference Begins

[The Region IV Conference](#) kicked off Monday June, 24th with registration, exhibit hall set-up, a Chief Administrator meeting, "Yeah We Do That" for the newbies, and a welcome reception for exhibitors, sponsors and jurisdictions this evening. The Region Board also met to discuss the business of the Region. Conference attendees enjoyed a busy week with full days of meetings during the day and great networking opportunities in the evening. More than 325 attendees joined President Doyle Eicher in beautiful Bloomfield, Colorado for discussions on today's hottest driver, vehicle, enforcement topics.

Register for Region I Conference

[Region I](#) meets from July 13-18th in Dover, DE. For more information, visit the Region I Conference website [here](#).

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

Region I News

DMV Adds More Wireless Access as Part of Increasing Online Services for Customers (Connecticut)

DMV now offers wireless internet service in all its major branch offices around the state for customers. The agency has expanded customer wireless to all branch locations following an April start-up in the Wethersfield office. [Read the full article on StamfordPlus.com](#)

[DMV to Make Major Customer Service Change for VIN Checks \(Connecticut\)](#)

The Department of Motor Vehicles beginning July 1 will make a major customer service change to provide more than 200 outlets statewide to do checks on vehicle identification numbers. Only seven DMV offices now perform that service. By transferring the checks to nearly 230 emissions testing stations and other garages, customers can choose from among many more convenient locations. VIN verifications, which cost \$10, are required for any vehicle being registered in Connecticut for the first time and not needing an emissions test. [Read the full article on ConnecticutPlus.com](#)

[New Law Places More Responsibility for Cyclists' Safety on Motorists \(Maine\)](#)

A new law aimed at increasing the safety of bicyclists in Maine's roadways is scoring an enthusiastic thumbs-up from cyclists in the state's biggest city. The bill, LD 1460, introduced by the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and passed into law June 13 without the governor's signature, adds teeth to the state's 6-year-old "3 feet" rule and gives cyclists the right to determine for themselves the safest place to travel within a roadway. It also changes the state definition of "traffic" to include cyclists and rollerbladers and prohibits motor vehicles from making right turns near cyclists in a way that would interfere with the cyclist's travel. Advocates say that action, dubbed a "right hook," is one of the most common causes of bicycle-motor vehicle accidents. [Read the full article in the Bangor Daily News](#)

[Madden/Norcross Legislation Creating Task Force to Address Distracted Driving Epidemic Clears \(New Jersey\)](#)

Senate Legislation sponsored by Senators Fred H. Madden and Donald Norcross to create a task force to address the epidemic of drivers engaged in dangerous and potentially lethal distractions behind the wheel was unanimously approved today by the full Senate. [Read the full article on PolitickerNJ.com](#)

[Legislation Increasing Penalties for Driving While Using a Cellphone Signed Into Law \(New Jersey\)](#)

Legislation that increases penalties for drivers who violate New Jersey's hands-free cellphone law was signed into law on Thursday, marking what one of the co-sponsors of the bill, Sen. Fred Madden (D-4 of Washington Township), said is "another step forward to deter the use of unauthorized or improper use of cell phones" while driving. [Read the full article on nj.com](#)

[Measure Links New Jersey Gun Permits to Driver's Licenses](#)

The state Senate gave final approval Thursday to a bill that calls for embedding firearms permit information in gun owners' New Jersey driver's licenses, the centerpiece of a gun control initiative crafted by Democrats after the Newtown, Conn., school shootings in December 2012. The bill also would require gun purchasers to complete a safety course, and would expand the use of mental health records in determining a person's eligibility to buy a gun. [Read the full article in the Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Region II News

[South Korea Set to Sign Driver's Licenses Deal with Georgia State](#)

Korea will become the first country to sign a driver's license reciprocity agreement with the U.S. state of Georgia, officials here said Wednesday. The two sides plan to hold a signing ceremony on July 1 at the South Korean Consulate General in Atlanta, they said. It would allow residents with a South Korean driver's license to forgo written and driving tests to receive a state license. [Read the full article in the Global Post](#)

[North Carolina Legislature Gives Final OK to Bill Helping People with Visual Impairment to Get License](#)

The General Assembly has created a way for North Carolina residents with significant impaired eyesight to pass a driver's license test. The legislature gave final approval Monday to a bill that lays out how a person using what's called bioptic telescopic lenses can qualify for a license for mostly daytime driving. The measure now heads to Gov. Pat McCrory's desk. [Read the full article in the Republic](#)

[New DMV Bills Combine Vehicle Registration and Taxes \(North Carolina\)](#)

Beginning in July, North Carolina drivers will start seeing combined bills for their vehicle's property taxes and registration renewals, which have previously been dealt with separately.

The change may be a source of confusion for taxpayers - property taxes have gone to the county and registration fees to the state. But the combined collection is designed to streamline the payment process and yield increased revenue for the counties. In Wake County, for example, property-tax revenue on vehicles could increase by more than \$3 million annually. [Read the full article in the News & Observer](#)

[North Carolina House Defeats 75MPH Speed Limit Study](#)

An effort to raise the maximum speed limit on North Carolina highways to 75 mph reached a stop sign Thursday as the House voted down a proposal to direct a state agency to study the idea and offer roads on which to experiment. The bill failed 44-64, one week after House members halted an earlier version of a Senate bill that would have authorized the state Department of Transportation to set a 75 mph on roads where safety and engineering allowed. [Read the full article in the Charlotte Observer](#)

[DMV Implements Transportation Funding Bill \(Virginia\)](#)

DMV is implementing a number of changes stemming from the transportation funding legislation that will become effective July 1, 2013. Starting July 1, 2013, the sales and use tax (SUT) increases from three to four percent. Additionally, per the new legislation, SUT will now be assessed based on the sale price minus any manufacturer rebates. The minimum tax increases from \$35 to \$75. Also effective July 1, owners of hybrid and electric vehicles will pay a \$64 annual fee in addition to registration fees. This fee does not apply to mopeds. Current law requires a \$50 annual fee for electric vehicles only. [Read the press release at *dmv.state.va.us*](#)

[Drivers Beware: Virginia Toughening Stand on Drunken, Distracted Driving](#)

The penalties for drinking and driving or texting and driving will change Monday, July 1. Currently, texting while driving is considered a secondary offense, meaning the offender must be stopped for another, separate offense in order to be charged for texting and driving. Under the new law, it will become a primary offense, allowing police to stop drivers suspected of texting or reading text messages while driving. [Read the full article in Potomac Local News](#)

Region III News

[Governor Nixon Vetoes Bill Raising Motorist Fees \(Missouri\)](#)

Gov. Jay Nixon on Wednesday vetoed legislation that would have increased the fees for obtaining and renewing driver's licenses and registering vehicles, saying the measure would have doubled the cost without providing an improvement in service. [Read the full article in the Colombian Missourian](#)

[Missouri Official Testifies About Real ID Compliance](#)

Law enforcement officers and legislators on a special House panel raised doubts Wednesday about assertions that Missouri officials have done nothing to comply with a federal proof-of-identity law.

The special investigatory committee took sworn testimony Wednesday from Jackie Bemboom, the director of Missouri's motor vehicle and driver's license division, during a lengthy hearing that at times resulted in raised voices and tense questioning. [Read the full article in the San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Bill to Drop Front License Plate Heads to Ohio House

Three state representatives from the Miami Valley are questioning Ohio's need for dual license plates. Ohio Reps. Terry Blair, Washington Twp.; Michael Henne, Clayton; and Ron Maag, Lebanon, co-signed a bipartisan bill that would nix the front plate. The House's committee on transportation issues unanimously cleared the bill Tuesday afternoon without debate. The House will likely vote on the bill Wednesday. [Read the full article on whiotv.com](#)

Ohio House Passes Bill to Ban Red-Light, Speed Cameras

The Ohio House yesterday approved a bill to ban red-light and speed cameras over the objections of Columbus-area representatives and others who argued that the technology has reduced traffic accidents and saved lives. "Motorists learn where these cameras are ... and guess what? Driving habits change. They change for the better," said Rep. Michael F. Curtin, D-Marble Cliff. House Bill 69, approved 61-32 and sent to the Senate, would require Columbus and other municipalities to remove all law-enforcement cameras except mobile units in school zones during restricted hours, which would be permissible if a police officer is present. [Read the full article in the Columbus Dispatch](#)

Region IV News

DMV.us.org Launches Major Safe Driving Initiative (California)

DMV.us.org is launching a large-scale program to help drivers stay safe on the road, the company said yesterday. "Providing people with public motor vehicle records is only part of our mission," a DMV.us.org spokesman said. "We also want to protect our customers. Far too many people die on the road every day due to accidents that are preventable with basic driving information." DMV.us.org has hired driving experts to create a series of safe-driving guides that will be available to all their customers at no additional charge, he said. [Read the full article on PRweb](#)

DMV Now Offering Email Registration Renewal Reminder (California)

California Department of Motor Vehicles (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. [Read the full article in the Manteca Bulletin](#)

Sandoval Names New DMV Director (Nevada)

Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles Interim Director Troy Dillard has been tapped to lead the department permanently. Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval announced the choice in a press release Wednesday afternoon. Dillard had been serving as the interim director of the department since November of last year. He previously served as the administrator for the department's Compliance and Enforcement Division. [Read the full article on kolotv.com](#)

Utah May See a \$200 Million Revenue Surplus

Utah may be poised to see as much as an extra \$200 million in its coffers. Depending on collection rates, the state may receive between a low projection of \$130 million to \$200 million more than earlier

revenue excess projections when the fiscal year ends on June 30, legislative chief economist Andrea Wilko told the Executive Appropriations Committee this week. This number reflects excess revenue projections and not actual revenue. [Read the full article in the Deseret News](#)

[New State Law to Recognize Veterans on Driver's Licenses \(Wyoming\)](#)

Wyoming veterans soon will have a new way to prove they once served in the armed forces. Beginning Monday, The Wyoming Department of Transportation will start issuing driver's licenses and identification cards with a special designation for honorably discharged veterans. Larry Barttelbort, director of the Wyoming Veterans Commission, said this is another way for the state to recognize its more than 56,400 veterans. [Read the full article in the Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#)

Did You Know...

Did you know...

- *Soccer is the world's most popular team sport.*
- *For FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) play, the soccer ball has a circumference of 71 centimeters or 28 inches.*
- *The outfield of soccer is 100 to 130 yards long and 50 to 100 yards wide.*
- *A single soccer player runs about 7 miles during an entire game.*
- *The first live coverage of a soccer match shown on television, was in the year 1937.*
- *Mexico is the only country to host the soccer World Cup event twice*