

Regional News – July 12, 2013

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See You in Dover!

The Region I Conference is set to kick off next week, July 13th-18th in Dover, DE. Still haven't registered? Visit the [Region I Conference Website](#) to register and join in on all the great sessions and networking opportunities we have planned. You'll also find the conference program and information on hotel and travel. See you there!

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 II and Region IV Conference Presentations are Available Online

The 2013 Region II and Region IV conferences have come and gone, but you can still catch the presentations online. Visit the Presentations from Past Events page on AAMVA's Web site at <http://www.aamva.org/Presentations-from-Past-Events/>.

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

Three-Month-Long Line for D.C. DMV Road Test

The waiting line at the District's Department of Motor Vehicles is long -- really long. In fact, it stretches into October. Standing outside D.C.'s one-and-only location where residents can take the road test to get their driver's license, you'll find lots of people with the same story. They've all been waiting months to take the road test and get a license -- between three and six months depending upon whom you ask.

Soon those people will be able to pay and avoid the long wait. According to Lucinda Babers, the Director of the District's DMV, a number of factors led to the backlog, which she said is currently three months. According to Babers, the District only has five driver examiners who administer the test. Two of those inspectors have been on sick leave. The agency plans to increase the number of examiners to seven, and Babers is beginning the process of authorizing private driving instructors to administer the road test. [Read the full article on NBC Washington.](#)

DC Council says people in US illegally can get same driver's licenses as citizens

The D.C. Council gave preliminary approval Wednesday to a bill that would allow people living in the country illegally to get the same driver's licenses as U.S. citizens, brushing aside a warning from the mayor that the measure could force hundreds of thousands of District of Columbia residents to get new licenses. [Read the full article on The Washington Post.](#)

Scofflaws could see vehicle registrations suspended for failure to pay up (Maryland)

Toll cheaters who use Maryland E-ZPass lanes without a transponder will get hit with a \$50 fine and could have their vehicle registration suspended under a law that took effect July 1. The Maryland Transportation Authority, operator of eight toll facilities, has begun the transition to the new collection process, which officials said will plug a loophole and allow them to recover as much as \$7 million in overdue tolls. [Read the full article in The Baltimore Sun.](#)

Customers to Receive Snowmobile, ATV Renewals Faster with New PennDOT, DCNR Partnership

PennDOT Secretary Barry J. Schoch and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Acting Secretary Ellen Ferretti today announced that customers will receive their ATV and snowmobile vehicle registration renewals two to four weeks faster through a new interagency partnership. Beginning July 1, PennDOT's state-of-the-art processing and mailing technology is processing DCNR's renewals for consumer snowmobiles, ATVs and dealer registrations, with customers receiving products within two weeks. Applicants will still mail applications to DCNR, but they will be opened, processed and fulfilled by PennDOT. [Read the full article on the PennDOT Web site](#)

Rhode Island Drivers Hit with Bigger License, Registration Fees at DMV

The state Division of Motor Vehicles has started collecting sizable surcharges on fees for licenses and registrations that will increase for three years. The resulting millions of dollars are to be used to avoid borrowing for the state Department of Transportation projects, cutting borrowing costs. In three years, the surcharges will amount to \$30 for car registrations and \$30 for licenses, with differing amounts for a variety of other fees. The money, estimated at \$6 million this fiscal year and rising to \$17 million in fiscal 2016, will save millions of dollars in debt-service costs. [Read the full article in the Providence Journal.](#)

Bill would allow for R.I. database to identify, penalize uninsured motorists

In the final days of this year's session, state lawmakers gave the go-ahead for the hiring of a private contractor to help the state identify, chase down and suspend the registration of vehicles owned by Rhode Island drivers without the minimum insurance required by law. The legislation that finally cleared the General Assembly on July 1 directs the DMV to hire a private contractor to create and continuously update an uninsured motorist identification database by comparing information the insurers supply monthly with the state's list of registered vehicles. [Read the full article in the Providence Journal.](#)

Region II News

A Driver Services Commissioner Unveils New Driver Training Manuals (Georgia)

Commissioner Rob Mikell of the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) recently unveiled the newly redesigned Georgia driver training manuals (*Drivers Manual*, *Motorcycle Operators Manual* and *Commercial Drivers Manual*). The three manuals have been converted to an easy-to-read magazine format with mobile applications featuring improved graphics and organization. The new layout allows for the placement of paid advertising which covers a portion of production costs and will ultimately save the state hundreds of thousands of dollars in printing costs. After a competitive bidding process, DDS partnered with J.F. Griffin - an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state regulation books. Access the new manuals on the DDS website at www.dds.ga.gov or at this direct link <http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/driver/>.

Personalized Plates Hearing Tuesday (Georgia)

People who want more freedom when it comes to selecting their personalized license plates will get their chance to speak out Tuesday morning. The Georgia Department of Revenue is holding a public hearing about proposed changes to the state's prestige license plate regulations. The state has been operating under emergency regulations since June. That was when they reached a settlement with First Amendment attorney Cynthia Counts and her client, Cyrus Gilbert. Counts filed a lawsuit on behalf of Gilbert earlier this year after the state denied him three different personalized plates, which all contained the word "gay." The state's emergency regulations, while allowing Gilbert's plate, may have created new problems. The rules ban profanity and obscenity, but they also ban any reference to crime, weapons, drugs and alcohol. The guidelines also outlaw several variations of the word "hate." [Read the full article on GPB News.](#)

South Carolina Safety Belt Usage Rate Sets All-Time-High Record

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety announced results from a recent USC survey, stating South Carolina motorists set a record-breaking 91.7 percent safety belt usage rate, making 2013 the second consecutive year that the rate of usage was above 90 percent. The survey was based on traffic counts conducted in 16 counties, and focused on drivers and passengers who used shoulder-style safety belts in June 2013. South Carolina's 91.7 safety belt usage is well above the current national rate of 86 percent. Last year the rate for SC was 90.5, the first time it rose above 90 percent. Officials at the SCDPS attribute the record usage rate to continuing enforcement and education efforts. [Read more on WMBFNews.com.](#)

New Teen Driver Law Limits Number of Passengers (Virginia)

Two new laws went into effect in July impacting Virginia drivers. Both focus on distracted driving.

The first was the highly anticipated new texting and driving regulations, and the other focused specifically on new teen drivers and who they can have in the car. The new law, called the provisional licensee law, aims to curb distracted driving, especially in rookie drivers, by limiting the number of passengers allowed in their vehicle. [Read the full article on newsplex.com.](#)

Vital Records will be Available Soon at DMV Offices (Virginia)

Need a copy of your birth certificate? Next year, you can get it at the DMV. A new law directs the Department of Motor Vehicles and the state Department of Health-which oversees vital records-to work together to create a way for the DMV to access birth certificates, marriage and divorce records and death records. Currently, if you need an official copy of those documents, you either have to order one through the mail or courier, or-if you're lucky enough to live near Richmond-go in person to the state's sole public vital records office. The new law aims to make it easier for people to get copies of those documents, which are needed for a variety of things, like getting a passport. [Read the full article on Fredericksburg.com.](#)

Region III News

Indiana Website Shows School Bus Inspection Reports

There is a new website that allows people to view school bus inspection reports online. Indiana State Police inspect all school buses each year and twice a year for buses more than 12 years old. Now I.S.P. is making the inspection reports available online. People who log on can also see historical records that go back through October of 2011. See those reports at <https://secure.in.gov/ISP/BusInspections/Public/Index>. [Read the full article on WSBT.com.](#)

New BMV Reinstatement Fee Installment Plan Available July 15 (Ohio)

The Collateral Sanctions Bill (SB 337 - 129th General Assembly) signed by Governor John Kasich, was effective September 28, 2012. As a provision of this bill, beginning July 15, 2013, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will offer reinstatement fee installment plans to those who qualify. Individuals whose driver's license have been suspended, but have met all of their reinstatement requirements, with the exception of paying the reinstatement fees, may apply. The plan will allow eligible drivers to renew, become valid, or permitted to retest for their driver's license. [Read the press release for more.](#)

Region IV News

Immigrant driver's licenses signed in Colorado

Immigrants living illegally in Colorado will be able to get driver's licenses under a bill signed into law by Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper. With Hickenlooper's signature on Wednesday, Colorado joined a handful of states that grant driver's licenses for immigrants regardless of legal status. Supporters of the bill argued everyone on the roads should know the rules and be insured. The licenses would be labeled to say they are not valid for federal identification, and can't be used to vote or obtain public benefits. [Read the full article in the Denver Post.](#)

DMV Taking Orders for Nevada 150th Plates

Nevadans who want to help celebrate the state's 150th anniversary of statehood can now pre-order special license plates commemorating the event. The Department of Motor Vehicles will begin taking orders Tuesday. The plates, featuring the state's 150th logo, will be available for general distribution beginning July 29 at urban DMV offices and on July 31 in Nevada's rural areas. The limited edition design resembles the state flag, with a "Battle Born" seal on a royal blue background. The words "The Silver State" line the bottom, alongside the dates 1864 and 2014. Proceeds from sales of the plates will support a yearlong sesquicentennial celebration that begins in October and culminates on Nevada Day in October 2014. [Read the full article on KTVU.com.](#)

Saskatchewan Looks at Suspending Licences for Distracted Drivers

The provincial government is looking at options to deal with drivers who continue to talk or text while driving. One of those is to increase fines. Currently in Saskatchewan, the fine for distracted driving is \$280 along with four demerit points, some of the stiffest penalties in the country. According to preliminary figures from SGI, 60 people were killed in Saskatchewan due to distracted driving last year, surpassing drunk driving as the leading cause of death on roads in the province.

[Read the full article on Global News.](#)

Look out for flooded alberta vehicles, SGI warns (Saskatchewan)

Saskatchewan drivers who are thinking of buying a vehicle from Alberta are being warned to watch out for flood damage. Saskatchewan Government Insurance says many flood-damaged vehicles can't be registered for use in Saskatchewan or in any other Canadian province. But SGI says there might be a delay in the identification of flood-damaged vehicles by insurers because of the extent of the flooding.

[Read the full article on The StarPhoenix.](#)

Saskatchewan insurance proposes new training, safety rules for motorcycles

Saskatchewan is considering more requirements for new motorcycle licences, supervision for new riders and the possibility of mandatory gear. The ideas are among more than a dozen changes to motorcycle safety, training and insurance rules proposed by Saskatchewan Government Insurance as it looks for ways to reduce claims, save money and quell the roar of angry riders.

[Read the full article on the Times Colonist.](#)

A-M-A-Z-I-N-G: 7-Letter License Plates Available in Texas for a Limited Time

It's that time of year when Texans can show their personality through the purchase of a 7-letter license plate. Until July 31 Texans can add flare to their license plates with the purchase of a 7-letter plate from My Plates. The \$17.5 million of profits since November 2009 from the specialty plates has added to the general revenue fund of Texas, which pays for services for all Texans. The 7-letter plates are \$795 for a 10-year term, averaging out to just under \$80 a year. [Read the full article on KENS5.com.](#)

5 plead guilty in Spokane driver's license fraud (Washington)

Five people accused of a scheme that allowed about 100 Bosnian nationals to fraudulently obtain commercial driver's licenses in Spokane pleaded guilty Thursday to a federal conspiracy charge to defraud the United States. [Read the full article on KREM.com.](#)

Other News

Women More Likely to be Ripped Off On Auto Repairs, Study Says

A new study out of Northwestern University found auto shops quoted higher prices to women who appeared uninformed about work needed to be done. But women were also more successful in negotiating the price down. Researchers Meghan Busse and Florian Zettelmeyer at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management ran field experiments to gauge the differences in treatment between men and women. [Read the full story in the Los Angeles Times.](#)

Did You Know...

Did you know...

- *If you have 3 quarters, 4 dimes, and 4 pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.*
- *The numbers '172' can be found on the back of the U.S. \$5 dollar bill in the bushes at the base of the Lincoln Memorial.*

- *President Kennedy was the fastest random speaker in the world with upwards of 350 words per minute.*
- *In the average lifetime, a person will walk the equivalent of 5 times around the equator.*
Odontophobia is the fear of teeth.
- *The 57 on Heinz ketchup bottles represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.*
- *In the early days of the telephone, operators would pick up a call and use the phrase, "Well, are you there?". It wasn't until 1895 that someone suggested answering the phone with the phrase "number please?"*
- *Cats sleep 16 to 18 hours per day.*

The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.