

February 28, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Upcoming AAMVA Events

Get all the details on these upcoming events:

- Workshop and Law Institute (March 11-13) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Workshop-Home-Page/>
- Region IV Conference (June 2-5) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-IV-Landing-Page/>
- Region II Conference (June 22-26) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-II-Landing-Page/>

Make your hotel and travel arrangements and register online today!

Region I

Noncitizens Could Earn Driving Privileges (Delaware)

A legislative task force is studying the feasibility and potential consequences of authorizing driving privilege cards to immigrants living in Delaware without legal permission. A legislative task force is studying the feasibility and potential consequences of authorizing driving privilege cards to immigrants living in Delaware without legal permission. Read the full story at DelawareOnLine.com.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/traffic/burke/2014/02/23/noncitizens-could-earn-driving-privileges-in-delaware/5769809/>

Maryland names new head of MVA

Milton Chaffee, a chief deputy administrator and 12-year employee at the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, has been named the agency's new top official. Read more in the Baltimore Sun.

Read more: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-mva-head-20140224,0,657592.story#ixzz2udaY1Phn>

Bill Would Address Crashes From Distracted Driving (Maryland)

A measure in Maryland would make it a misdemeanor to cause accidents resulting in serious injury, if the driver at fault was talking on a cellphone. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday. It would create a penalty of up to three years in jail and a \$5,000 fine. Read the story at WMDT.com.

<http://www.wmdt.com/story/24825025/bill-would-address-crashes-from-distracted-driving>

Dozens Charged in Car Theft Ring That Targeted Luxury SUVs in New York, New Jersey

Nearly three dozen people were arrested or charged in what authorities said Thursday was a takedown of an auto theft ring that used tactics including carjackings in New York and New Jersey to help feed a demand for luxury sport utility vehicles in West Africa. Read the full story at NBCNewYork.com.

http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Carjacking-Ring-New-York-New-Jersey-Arrests-Land-Rover-BMW-Mercedes-247588281.html?_osource=SocialFlowTwt_NYBrand

NYC Proposed Law Would Tell Drivers of Cameras' Locations (New York)

They might no longer be candid cameras. New York City Councilman Vincent Ignizio will introduce a bill Wednesday to require the city to post signs alerting drivers at intersections where there are red-light cameras. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-proposed-law-drivers-cameras-locations-article-1.1701964>

Region II

How Driver's License Suspensions Make Poverty Worse (Florida)

A Republican lawmaker in Florida is setting his sights on reversing a policy that devastates the poor but gets little attention: suspending a person's driver's license. In an interview with the Tampa Bay Times, Florida House Speaker Will Weatherford gave a brief-but-brilliant master class on what criminal justice reformers call "collateral consequences." . . . The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators in 2012 found 59 offenses unrelated to driving that could lead to an American having her license suspended. Read the full article in The Atlantic Cities.

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/commute/2014/02/how-drivers-license-suspensions-make-poverty-worse/8510/> Related: AAMVA Best Practice Guide to Reducing Suspended Drivers (2013)

<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=3723&libID=3709>

NC DMV Proposing Changes to Driver License Tests

The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh is proposing changes to driver license tests Thursday. The changes would remove the written test requirement for applicants with a valid, unexpired driver license that was issued by another state. Read the full story at WECT.com.

<http://www.wect.com/story/24838764/ncdmv-proposing-changes-to-driver-license-test>

Tennessee Bill would Put Red Labels on Sex Offenders' Driving Licenses

Legislation proposed in the Tennessee Legislature would mark the drivers' licenses of convicted sex offenders with red warnings. "Sex offender" would appear three times, in red letters, on the motor vehicle licenses of those who have been convicted of a sex crime, according to the proposal, WSMV-TV reported. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/tennessee-bill-put-red-labels-sex-offenders-driving-licenses-article-1.1704398>

Virginia Governor Signs Repeal of Hybrid Vehicle Tax

Gov. Terry McAuliffe has added his signature to legislation to repeal the state's \$64 annual fee on hybrid vehicles. McAuliffe signed the legislation Wednesday during a one-hour appearance on WTOP radio in Washington. He said the repeal is effective July 1 and will affect the 75,000 hybrid vehicles in Virginia. Read the full story at NBC 4 Washington.

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/politics/Va-governor-signs-repeal-of-hybrid-vehicle-tax-247274451.html>

Senate Approves Bill to Regulate Older Drivers (Virginia)

Drivers 75 and older would face more strict standards to renew a license for five years, instead of eight, under legislation that passed the Virginia Senate on Monday, weeks after the chamber rejected a similar bill. The measure (HB771) from Del. Tim Hugo, R-Fairfax County, would lower from 80 the age at which older drivers face mandatory vision tests and are eligible for only the shorter license renewal period. Read the full story at HamptonRoads.com.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2014/02/virginia-senate-approves-bill-regulate-older-drivers>

Region III

Indiana House Backs New Rules for Teen Drivers

Teenagers would have to log at least 50 hours of supervised driving and wait longer before receiving a driver's license under a bill passed by the Indiana House. The bill approved 93-6 on Wednesday also would require teens to wait longer than current law to obtain their driver's license. And it would ban drivers younger than 18 from using cell phones and other telecommunications devices while behind the wheel. Read the full story at WTHR.com.

<http://www.wthr.com/story/10189606/indiana-house-backs-new-rules-for-teen-drivers>

Patrol, Union Differ Whether Efficiency Rules Lead to Ticket Quotas (Ohio)

Trooper Jason Hodge is the best in the State Highway Patrol at tracking down stolen vehicles and nabbing those who took off in them. His prize for recovering 22 stolen vehicles last year: the patrol's "Blue Max" Award and a shiny new silver Dodge Charger cruiser for his job. But he won't be allowed to drive it to and from work, like most troopers. . . The standards, dubbed the "Time Efficiency Value" and instituted in mid-2011, assign average time to complete a task (such as 2½ hours to investigate a typical traffic crash) and ask troopers to meet those goals. Read the full story in the Columbus Dispatch.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/02/24/patrol-union-differ-on-quotas.html>

Task Force Recommends Ohio Keep Two License Plates

Motorists would only be required to display a single license plate on the rear of their vehicles under a proposal pending in the Ohio House. But at the same time, a joint House-Senate task force unanimously has recommended against the change to one plate from two, The Columbus Dispatch reports. Read the full story at MansfieldNewsJournal.com.

<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/article/20140222/NEWS01/302220010/Task-force-recommends-Ohio-keep-two-license-plates>

6-State Trooper Project Enforcement Effort a Success (Ohio, et al)

The Ohio State Highway Patrol joined forces with members of the 6-State Trooper Project for a high-visibility enforcement effort focused on crash causing violations from February 21, at 12:01 a.m. through February 23, at 11:59 p.m. Troopers targeted safety belt, aggressive driving and OVI- related violations along the Interstate 75 corridor. The initiative included members of the Michigan State Police, Kentucky State Police and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Read the State Patrol press release.

<http://statepatrol.ohio.gov/media/2014/14-037.html>

Region IV

Seatbelt Medical Exemptions to be Repealed (British Columbia)

Effective on February 26th, 2014 you will no longer be able to submit an application to be exempt from wearing a seatbelt for medical reasons. The Canadian Medical Association's Driver's Guide states in Section 24 that "there are no medical circumstances that justify exemption from wearing a seat belt." After this date doctors will no longer be able to issue exemptions. If you already hold an exemption you will not be able to renew it when it expires, but the exemption will be lawful until then. Read the full story at ILSTV.com.

<http://www.ilstv.com/news-seatbelt-medical-exemptions-to-be-repealed/>

FBI Busts DMV Employees Who Were Selling California Driver's Licenses for Cash

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's San Diego Division were able to uncover a scam carried out by employees at the Department of Motor Vehicles office in El Cajon, Calif. For at least three years, DMV employees sold California driver's licenses for cash to people that were funneled their way via the owner of a local driving school. For \$500 to \$2,500, students of the school, which frequently catered to Middle Eastern immigrants, could obtain a license without ever even taking the driver's test. Read the full story at UPI.com.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2014/02/25/FBI-busts-DMV-employees-who-were-selling-California-drivers-licenses-for-cash/7601393348507/#ixzz2uRqrAeqN

Central California Police Chief, Ex-Chief Arrested in Car Impound Scheme

King City's longtime former police chief, Nick Baldiviez, current acting police chief, Bruce Miller, and five others were arrested in a major corruption bust Tuesday morning. King City's top law enforcers became alleged lawbreakers when they orchestrated a scheme victimizing the most vulnerable residents in King City, prosecutors said. Read the full story at KCRA.com.

<http://www.kcra.com/news/king-city-police-chief-and-exchief-arrested/24674094>

Man Arrested in Car Sales Scam (California)

Stockton police assisted Department of Motor Vehicles investigators in apprehending a man who sold a number of used cars with falsified odometer readings, authorities said. DMV investigators requested assistance from the Stockton Police Department on Thursday after Albert Navarro Zapata, 27, fled on foot, officers said. Zapata flagged down a vehicle, got into the back seat and then refused to get out when police located the vehicle near West Lane and East Alpine Avenue, authorities said. Read the full story in the Stockton Record.

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140228/A_NEWS/402280323/-1/a_news02

New CDOT Campaign Targets Stoned Drivers (Colorado)

Next month the Colorado Department of Transportation will kick off a new campaign aimed at warning people against smoking marijuana and driving called "Drive High, Get a DUI." CDOT plans to launch the \$430,000 media blitz, but the agency acknowledges it will do so without any hard data quantifying the number of people actually getting arrested for driving high. Read the full story at Denver.CBSLocal.com.

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2014/02/24/new-cdot-campaign-targets-stoned-drivers/>

Judge Declares 24/7 DUI-Prevention Law Unconstitutional (Montana)

A state judge has struck down the law underpinning Montana's "24/7" sobriety program for drunken-driving suspects, saying its sobriety testing fees are an unconstitutional punishment before a defendant is tried. District Judge James Wheelis of Libby also said other parts of the 2011 law authorizing the testing are unconstitutionally vague and grant too much discretion to the attorney general and other officials in setting up the program. Read the full story in the Billings Gazette.

http://billingsgazette.com/search/?l=50&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&byline=By%20MIKE%20DENNIS%20AGazette%20State%20Bureau

Private Firms Argue First Amendment Right to Collect License Plate Data; Companies Sue Utah to Halt Law that Blocks Private Gathering, Use of Such Data

Exactly one year ago in Utah, a Republican state senator introduced a bill that imposed new regulations on how license plate readers (LPRs) could be used in the Beehive State. That bill was signed into law on April 1, 2013. Read the full story at ArsTechnica.com.

<http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2014/02/private-firms-argue-first-amendment-right-to-collect-license-plate-data/>

Other News

Google Sets Roadblocks to Stop Distracted Driver Legislation

Google is lobbying officials in at least three U.S. states to stop proposed restrictions on driving with headsets such as Google Glass, marking some of the first clashes over the nascent wearable technology. Some eight U.S. states are considering regulation of Google Glass, a tiny computer screen mounted in the corner of an eyeglass frame. Law enforcement and other groups are concerned that drivers wearing the devices will pay more attention to their email than the road, causing serious accidents. Read the full story in Business Insider.

www.businessinsider.com/r-exclusive-google-sets-roadblocks-to-stop-distracted-driver-legislation-2014-25#ixzz2uLR9pIMl

Pre-inspection of U.S.-Bound Trucks Begins in Canada

U.S. customs officers began inspecting U.S.-bound cargo trucks in Canada on Monday under a pilot program intended to relieve congestion at one of the border's busiest commercial crossings. Authorities want to see if pre-inspecting trucks on the roomier Canadian side of the Peace Bridge will reduce wait times and pollution-causing idling on the 86-year-old span between Fort Erie, Ontario, and Buffalo, N.Y. Read the full story in The Spokesman Review.

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2014/feb/25/pre-inspection-of-us-bound-trucks-begins-in-canada/>

Experts: Fear of Death Can Stop Texting and Driving

While drivers tend to believe it is dangerous to text and drive, many say they can still do it safely. Now Washington State University researchers say drivers can be discouraged from the practice with public service announcements that evoke their fear of death in graphic terms. Read the full story at KREM.com.

<http://www.krem.com/news/crime/Experts-Fear-of-death-can-stop-texting-and-driving-247293511.html>

Pivotal Point Is Seen as More States Consider Legalizing Marijuana

A little over a year after Colorado and Washington legalized marijuana, more than half the states, including some in the conservative South, are considering decriminalizing the drug or legalizing it for medical or recreational use. That has set up a watershed year in the battle over whether marijuana should be as available as alcohol. Read the full article in the New York Times.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/27/us/momentum-is-seen-as-more-states-consider-legalizing-marijuana.html?_r=0

Did You Know

BIZARRE DRIVING LAWS

The next time you take a road trip, you might want to first familiarize yourself with the driving laws on the books in the jurisdictions you will be traveling through. For example, it's illegal in Massachusetts to operate a car with a gorilla in the backseat, so you may want to let "Kong" sit shotgun in Massachusetts. If you'll be travelling with kids, you might want to prepare for the trip by running drills to time how quickly they can get in and out of the vehicle: in Oregon you can be ticketed if you leave your car door open longer than is deemed necessary.

Prepare yourself and your family for your next road trip, here are just a few more bizarre driving laws:

- Officials in Dublin, Georgia, have made it illegal to drive through playgrounds.
- In Derby, Kansas, it is considered a misdemeanor to screech your tires while driving. This abominable act can cost you 30 days in jail.
- In Florida, if an elephant, goat or alligator is left tied to a parking meter, the parking fee has to be paid just as it would for a vehicle.
- In Montana, it is illegal to have a sheep in the cab of your truck without a chaperone.
- In Tennessee, it is illegal shoot any game other than whales from a moving automobile.
- In San Francisco, it is illegal to wipe one's car with used underwear.
- In Nevada, it's illegal to ride a camel on the highway.
- Memphis and New Orleans never repealed laws that mandate a man walk ahead of any car driven by a woman waving a warning flag.

Oh there's more---much more! Here are a few sites to take a look at:

- <http://www.dmv.org/fun-stuff/bizarre-driving-laws.php>
- <http://autos.aol.com/article/unusual-driving-laws/>
- <http://expresslane.idrivesafely.com/infographic-unusual-state-traffic-laws-crazy-car-laws-weird-road-laws-bizarre-driving-laws/>
- <http://www.thedetroitbureau.com/2014/02/the-worlds-oddest-driving-laws/>