

# March 14, 2014 - Regional News

---

## AAMVA News

### Upcoming AAMVA Events

Get all the details on these upcoming events:

- 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!

### Miss the Workshop and Law Institute in St. Louis?

Many of the presentations from the 2014 Workshop and Law Institute are available for download via the Workshop's Download Center (<http://www.aamva.org/2014-Workshop-Download-Center/>). If you were able to join us in St. Louis, you may want to reminisce as you browse through photos from the event on AAMVA's Flickr page (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/aamva/collections/72157642248626765/>).

## Region I

### Commissioner Opposes Online License Plate Auction (Connecticut)

Connecticut's Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner is urging state legislators to scrap a bill that would require the agency to set up a system for selling certain license plate registrations through an Internet auction. Read the full story at CBSLocal.com.

<http://connecticut.cbslocal.com/2014/03/05/commissioner-opposes-online-license-plate-auction/>

### Proposed 4.2-Cent Gas Tax Increase A Step Closer to Passage (New Hampshire)

New Hampshire is one step closer to the first increase in the state's gasoline tax in more than 20 years. The Senate Ways and Means Committee voted 4-1 on Tuesday to endorse a 4.2-cent increase in the tax, currently set at 18 cents a gallon. It would be effective July 1. Read the full story in the Union Leader.

<http://www.unionleader.com/article/20140304/NEWS06/140309668>

### Tesla Cars Hit by New Jersey Ban

The Christie administration is trying to unplug the popular Tesla in New Jersey by making it harder to buy one. The state's Motor Vehicle Commission voted unanimously Tuesday at a hearing in Trenton to ban the direct sale of cars to consumers. Read the full story at NYPost.com.

[http://nypost.com/2014/03/11/tesla-cars-hit-by-new-jersey-ban/?utm\\_campaign=SocialFlow&utm\\_source=NYPTwitter&utm\\_medium=SocialFlow](http://nypost.com/2014/03/11/tesla-cars-hit-by-new-jersey-ban/?utm_campaign=SocialFlow&utm_source=NYPTwitter&utm_medium=SocialFlow)

## Region II

### **Group Features Confederate Flag on Specialty License Plates in Georgia, Renewing Debate**

Georgia officials have once again approved a specialty license plate featuring the Confederate battle flag, infuriating civil rights advocates and renewing a debate among those who believe the symbol honors Confederate heritage and those who see it as racially charged. Read the full story at StarTribune.com.

<http://www.startribune.com/246131211.html>

### **DMV Offers Online Tracking of Handicapped Placard Delivery (Virginia)**

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is offering a new service, enabling customers who have applied for or renewed a handicapped placard to find out when they may receive their new product in the mail. By signing up for a myDMV account at [www.dmvNOW.com](http://www.dmvNOW.com), customers may follow the production timeline of their placard. Read more in the Virginia DMV press release.

[http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/general/news/pressReleases/#/News\\_Article:8001](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/general/news/pressReleases/#/News_Article:8001)

## Region III

### **Repeat DWI Offenders Prompt New Missouri Proposal**

In 2012, there were 29,560 DWI offenses statewide. In 2013, the numbers dropped to 25,594. And so far in 2014, there have been 2,428 DWI arrests. While the numbers are down, some say the consequences for repeat DWI offenders need to be harsher. Read the full story at ABC17News.com.

<http://www.abc17news.com/news/repeat-dwi-offenders-prompt-new-missouri-proposal/24928866>

### **Number of Michigan Drivers Who Admit Texting Doubles**

The law may say no, but Michigan thumbs are still saying yes. In fact, the number of Michigan drivers who admit they text while driving doubled last year to 1 in 6, according to a statewide phone survey conducted for the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. Read the full story at DetroitNews.com.

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20140305/METRO05/303050089/0/LOCAL/Number-Michigan-drivers-who-admit-texting-doubles>

### **Bill Requires Breath-Test Device for First-Time OVI Offenders (Ohio)**

The family of a beloved Chillicothe attorney killed by a drunken driver wants everyone convicted of driving while impaired to have their breath tested before they drive again. Ohio law requires ignition

interlock devices for repeat drunken drivers, but the family of Annie Rooney wants the device installed for first-time offenders as well. The device requires drivers to blow into a breathalyzer, which calculates blood-alcohol concentration, and will prevent the vehicle from starting if the driver tests higher than the preset limit, usually 0.025 BAC. Read the full story at MarionStar.com.

<http://www.marionstar.com/article/20140306/NEWS01/303060021?odyssey=mod%7Cmostcom>

## **Region IV**

### **ICBC Road Safety Campaign for Young Drivers to Focus on Distracted Driving (British Columbia)**

The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) has launched a new road safety speaking tour for young drivers, focusing especially on distracted driving, a leading cause of crashes among those between 16 and 21. ICBC launched its road safety speaker program Wednesday at Panorama Ridge Secondary in Surrey with a new road safety speaker, Heidi Cave. Read the full story in the Canadian Underwriter.

<http://www.canadianunderwriter.ca/news/icbc-road-safety-campaign-for-young-drivers-to-focus-on-distracted-driving/1002960062/?&er=NA>

### **California Pushes to Finish Driverless Car Rules**

California is trying to do something unusual in this age of rapidly evolving technology - get ahead of a big new development before it goes public. By the end of the year, the Department of Motor Vehicles must write rules to regulate cars that rely on computers - not the owner - to do the driving. Read the full story at News10.com.

<http://www.news10.com/story/24950324/california-pushes-to-finish-driverless-car-rules>

### **Bill Suspending Hit-and-Run Drivers' Licenses Passes Assembly Committee (California)**

The California Assembly's Public Safety Committee voted 7-0 Tuesday to approve A.B. 1532, which would require an automatic license suspension for drivers who flee the scene of a crash where a person is hit, even if that person is not injured. Read the full story at LA.StreetsBlog.org.

<http://la.streetsblog.org/2014/03/12/hit-and-run-bill-passes-assembly-committee/>

### **Texting-and-Driving Lawsuit Could Change Law (California)**

A victim of a texting-and-driving crash is involved in a groundbreaking lawsuit that could impact drivers everywhere. In 2010, a driver who was texting slammed into a Chevy Suburban driven by Los Angeles resident Joseph Schultz's Chevy Suburban . . . No criminal charges were filed. Schultz filed a negligence suit seeking punitive damages, but a lower court rejected the lawsuit. His lawyers then filed an appeal . . . Schultz and his attorneys believe that campaigns against texting-and-driving are not enough and that the behavior deserves punishment . . . If Schultz's appeal is successful and sets a precedent, it could eventually lead to higher insurance rates. Read the full story at NBCLosAngeles.com.

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Texting-and-Driving-Lawsuit-Could-Change-Law-250309101.html>

### **80 mph Speed Limit Bill Narrowly Passes House, Heads to Governor's Desk (Utah)**

Speed limits up to 80 mph in Idaho? The House was decidedly less enthusiastic about the idea today than the Senate was earlier, but SB 1284a narrowly passed, 34-31, and now goes to Gov. Butch Otter. The bill earlier passed the Senate on a 30-4 vote. Read the full story in The Spokesman Review.

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/boise/2014/mar/11/80-mph-speed-limit-bill-narrowly-passes-house-heads-governors-desk/>

## **Did You Know**

### **AVOID THE PINCH! WEAR GREEN FOR PADDY'S DAY ON MONDAY**

If you'll recall from school days of yore—be sure to wear green on St. Patrick's Day, or you'll be pinched for sure! I spent most of the night last helping my son build a leprechaun trap for a school project when the idea came into my head—"St. Patrick's Day will be the subject for the *Did You Know* column!" So here goes:

- St. Patrick's Day is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.
- St. Patrick wasn't Irish, and he wasn't born in Ireland. Patrick's parents were Roman citizens living in modern-day England, or more precisely in Scotland or Wales (scholars cannot agree on which). He was born in 385 AD. By that time, most Romans were Christians and the Christian religion was spreading rapidly across Europe.
- Patrick was about sixteen years old when he was abducted and enslaved by Irish marauders, under their leader, Niall of the Nine Hostages
- Be first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the United States is held in Boston in 1737.
- There are 34.7 million U.S. residents with Irish ancestry. This number is more than seven times the population of Ireland itself.
- Across the country, 11 percent of residents lay claim to Irish ancestry. That number more than doubles to 23 percent in the state of Massachusetts.
- Your odds of finding a four-leaf clover are about 1 in 10,000.
- Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional St. Patrick's Day dish. In 2009, roughly 26.1 billion pounds of beef and 2.3 billion pounds of cabbage were produced in the United States.
- Some Irish toasts:
  - "May your glass be ever full. May the roof over your head be always strong. And may you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows you're dead."
  - "May your blessings outnumber, the shamrocks that grow, And may trouble avoid you wherever you go."
  - "The Scots have their whisky, the Welsh have their tongue, but the Irish have Paddy, who's second to none!"

- And I'll close with an Irish blessing:  
"May you always have...  
Walls for the winds, A roof for the rain  
Tea beside the fire, Laughter to cheer you  
Those you love near you  
And all your heart might desire."

Find more fun facts online at:

- St. Patrick's Day Fast Fact (CNN) <http://www.cnn.com/2013/07/13/world/st-patricks-day-fast-facts/>
- Bet you didn't know these 10 things about St. Patrick and Ireland! (Catholic Online) <https://www.catholic.org/saints/story.php?id=45045>
- St. Patrick's Day Facts (History.com) <http://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day/st-patricks-day-facts>
- Top 50 St. Patrick's Day Facts (stpatricksdays.com) <http://www.stpatricksdays.com/history/stpatrick/50-facts.shtml>