

# March 21, 2014 - Regional News

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## 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

### DMV Offers New Online Service to Trucking Companies (Connecticut)

DMV's latest online payment service starts today and gives Connecticut-based trucking companies a new streamlined approach for filing regulatory fees with the agency. The new service allows Connecticut-based motor carriers to pay online rather than mail certified checks or go to DMV. The new renewal payment link can be found at <http://ct.gov/dmv>. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.ct.gov/dmv/cwp/view.asp?Q=541876&A=807>

### Connecticut DMV Says No to Tests for Renewal Driver's Licenses

... A simple Google search showed that WFSB Channel 3 and FOX 61 reported on Mar. 5 about a proposed bill that would require drivers to pass a written knowledge test to get their licenses renewed. Those who fail the written test would have to take an on-the-road skills test to retain their licenses. The stations failed to later report on the written testimony given by the Connecticut Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, which can simply be found by visiting the Connecticut General Assembly website. Slated to take effect on Jan. 1, 2016, Senate Raised Bill 335: An Act Requiring Continuing Education for Connecticut's Drivers, was discussed at a public hearing by the Transportation Committee on March 5. The transcript for the public hearing, which is a complete record of those who spoke at the hearing, was unavailable at press time. Read the full story at [Vernon.Patch.com](http://Vernon.Patch.com).

<http://vernon.patch.com/groups/corey-sipes-blog/p/ct-dmv-says-no-to-tests-for-renewal-drivers-licenses>

### **Some New Fake IDs Pass as Legitimate Licenses (District of Columbia)**

A new generation of fake driver's licenses has infiltrated the Washington, D.C. region, many of them sophisticated enough to fool law enforcement and scanning devices, according to a review by the News4 I-Team. Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control officials reported an influx of thousands of phony licenses in recent months, including a series of fakes that successfully tricked the driver's license readers utilized by county police officers during traffic stops. Read the full story at NBCWashington.com.

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Some-New-Fake-IDs-Pass-as-Legitimate-Licenses-250266441.html>

### **Maryland Moves To Increase Penalties For Distracted Driving**

The Maryland Senate is advancing a measure to increase penalties for distracted driving. The Senate passed the bill without opposition yesterday. It would apply to people who cause serious accidents while text messaging on hand-held cellphones. Read the full story at WAMU.org.

[http://wamu.org/news/14/03/21/maryland\\_moves\\_to\\_increase\\_penalties\\_for\\_distracted\\_driving](http://wamu.org/news/14/03/21/maryland_moves_to_increase_penalties_for_distracted_driving)

### **More Charities Could Benefit from Their Own License Plates (Massachusetts)**

. . . A group of state lawmakers headed by Representative Jeffrey Roy, a Franklin Democrat, and Senator Karen Spilka, an Ashland Democrat, has filed legislation that would make it substantially easier for charities to obtain their own license registration plate. If the bill succeeds, the number of charitable plates available to motorists — currently there are 18 to choose from — could more than double by year's end. Read the full story at BostonGlobe.com.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/north/2014/03/19/who-taught-you-drive-more-charities-could-get-their-own-license-plate/TNwMrL5apbW2TkmBEEpShN/story.html>

### **Cuomo Plans to Yank Car Registrations of Chronic Toll Cheaters (New York)**

Drivers around the state who have cumulatively run up more than \$156 million in unpaid tolls may soon be walking to their destinations. Gov. Cuomo is planning to make it easier for the state to yank the vehicle registrations of motorists who zip through toll lanes without paying and ignore collection efforts. It is against state law to drive an unregistered vehicle. Read the full story at NYPost.com.

<http://nypost.com/2014/03/19/cuomo-plans-to-yank-car-registrations-of-chronic-toll-cheaters/>

### **Bill to Update ATV Regulations Introduced (Pennsylvania)**

A bill this week to update Pennsylvania's all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) regulations, specifically regarding the definition of an ATV to allow titling and registration of innovative models of the vehicles, was introduced this week Rep. Doyle Heffley (R, Carbon). Read the full story at PoconoNews.net.

<http://www.pocononews.net/news/2014/March/15/15Mar14-2.html>

### **First Wave of PennDOT Fee Increase (Pennsylvania)**

Pennsylvanians will soon be paying higher fees for a host of motor vehicle and driver services from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. April 1 will bring higher costs for title certificates, personalized license plates and more than 30 other fee categories. The higher fees were approved as part of the transportation infrastructure law passed late last year that also is boosting gasoline taxes by an estimate of more than a quarter a gallon over several years. Vanity plates that now cost an extra \$20 will jump to \$76. Another round of increases will take effect July 1. Read the full story at Sunny106fm.

<http://www.sunny106.fm/default.asp?pid=937948>

## **Region II**

### **Man Convicted in 1974 for Fort Dix Murder is Caught in Florida 37 Years after Leavenworth Prison Escape (Florida & New Jersey)**

A U.S. Army private convicted in 1974 of a murder he committed while stationed at Fort Dix in New Jersey was captured yesterday in Florida 37 years after he escaped from Leavenworth prison. James Robert Jones had been sentenced to 23 years in prison for killing a fellow Army private, but escaped from Fort Leavenworth prison in Kansas in 1977. He was listed among the U.S. Army's 15 most wanted. Read the full story at NJ.com.

[http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2014/03/man\\_convicted\\_in\\_1974\\_fort\\_dix\\_murder\\_is\\_caught\\_in\\_florida\\_37\\_years\\_after\\_leavenworth\\_prison\\_escape.html](http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2014/03/man_convicted_in_1974_fort_dix_murder_is_caught_in_florida_37_years_after_leavenworth_prison_escape.html)

### **Military Designation to be Placed on North Carolina Driver's License**

Military veterans with an honorable discharge can now display their status on their North Carolina driver's license and identification cards. . . . The General Assembly passed the law allowing the "veteran" label to be attached to driver's licenses in 2011. But it was just last week that the state could make the designation available to the state's 800,000 veterans. Read the full story at ShelbyStar.com.

<http://www.shelbystar.com/news/local/military-designation-to-be-placed-on-nc-driver-s-license-1.293202>

### **Appalachian Trail Specialty License Plate Revenue Tops \$1M in Southern Region (North Carolina)**

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has a hefty "Thank you" for its supporters in the southern region. Revenue received from the sale of Appalachian Trail (A.T.) specialty license plates in Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia recently exceeded the \$1 million mark, the ATC announced. The A.T. License Plate Program was established in 2005 to support the ATC in its work to sustain the trail into the future. For more information, visit [www.appalachiantrail.org](http://www.appalachiantrail.org).) Read the full story in the Kingsport Times.

<http://www.timesnews.net/article/9074709/appalachian-trail-specialty-license-plate-revenue-tops-1m-in-southern-region>

### **South Carolina Big Story: Breathalyzers in Cars for DUI Offenders**

A House subcommittee is scheduled to hear from the public Thursday morning on legislation that would require drivers with DUI charges to install a breathalyzer in their vehicle in order to continue operating it. Read the full story at SouthCarolinaRadioNetwork.com.

<http://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2014/03/20/sc-big-story-breathalyzers-in-cars-for-dui-offenders/>

### **DMV Offers New Electronic Product Notification Service (Virginia)**

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is offering a new service making it easier for online customers to find out when they may receive their DMV products in the mail. After conducting an online transaction, customers who are signed up for DMV's electronic notifications through their myDMV account will automatically receive email or text messages when their products are mailed. Read the DMV press release.

<https://secure2.sglc.com/DMSImage/16820140320104801084/0.htm>

## **Region III**

### **Bow Wow! Another Specialty Licence Plate for Winnipeggers (Manitoba)**

The list of specialty licence plates available for Manitobans is expanding once again. The Winnipeg Humane Society is hoping to collar the market when it reveals its plates Friday afternoon. Justice Minister Andrew Swan, who is also the minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance, along with WHS head Bill McDonald will unveil the plates at the Winnipeg Humane Society on Hurst Way. Read the full story at CBC.CA.News.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/bow-wow-another-specialty-licence-plate-for-winnipeggers-1.2572644>

### **MPI Aims to Reduce Fraud with Prevention Campaign (Manitoba)**

March is Fraud Prevention Month and Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) is dedicated to reducing fraud and educating Manitobans on how they can assist in keeping auto insurance premiums low. Read the full story at ILSTV.com.

<http://www.ilstv.com/mpi-aims-to-reduce-fraud-with-prevention-campaign/>

### **Ohio Police Say 589 Arrests Made As Part Of Six-State Enforcement Effort**

The Ohio State Highway Patrol says that an effort conducted with police from five other states netted 542 drug arrests and 47 illegal weapons arrests. Ohio troopers joined forces with state police from Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and the Indiana to focus on removing drugs and illegal weapons from communities. f the arrests made during the March 6-8 effort, Ohio made 166 of the drug arrests and four of the weapon seizures. Read the full story at WCHSTV.com.

[http://www.wchstv.com/newsroom/eyewitness/140313\\_23929.shtml](http://www.wchstv.com/newsroom/eyewitness/140313_23929.shtml)

### **Lawmakers Urged to Require Ignition Locks for All Convicted Drunk Drivers (Ohio)**

Mothers Against Drunk Driving is urging Ohio lawmakers to support Annie's Law, which would require ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. House Bill 469, also known as Annie's Law, would require the locks on any vehicle driven by drunk drivers convicted of driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of .08. The law was named after Annie Rooney, who was killed July 4, 2013, reportedly by a drunk driver. Read the full story at ABC 22 Ohio.

[http://www.abc22now.com/shared/news/top-stories/stories/wkef\\_vid\\_19199.shtml](http://www.abc22now.com/shared/news/top-stories/stories/wkef_vid_19199.shtml)

## **Region IV**

### **Vehicle Inspection Changes Among New West Initiatives (Alberta, British Columbia & Saskatchewan)**

The elimination of safety inspections on certain vehicles being imported between provinces was among the agreements announced Thursday by the premiers of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The change, which Premier Brad Wall said is expected to be in place by April 2015, would cut the requirement for an out-of-province inspection on private vehicles that are not rebuilt and that are less than four years old or were inspected fewer than 90 days ago in the province from which they are arriving. Read the full story in The Star Phoenix.

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/Vehicle+inspection+changes+among+West+initiatives/9617044/story.html>

### **Who Owns Vehicle-Generated Data? Legislation in California is Pitting Car Manufacturers Against Insurers**

Foreshadowing a clash between carmakers and a prominent auto insurance company, Sen. Bill Monning on Tuesday unveiled a bill to loosen car manufacturers' grip on data generated by vehicles. Framed by a computer-equipped car parked on the steps of the state Capitol, the Carmel Democrat said his Senate Bill 994 would allow consumers to see what data their car emits and decide with whom they want to share the information. The measure is sponsored by AAA Northern California and its south state counterpart, the Automobile Club of Southern California. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/data/Who-Owns-Vehicle-Generated-Data.html>

### **35 New Washington State Patrol Troopers Sworn In**

At a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda this afternoon, 35 Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers were sworn in by Washington State Supreme Court Justice Debra Stephens and were presented their commission cards by Governor Jay Inslee and Chief John R. Batiste, who welcomed them into an organization known and trusted by the citizens of Washington State. After completing over 1,000 hours of training, these men and women will join Washington's premier law enforcement organization. The Washington State Patrol Academy produces approximately two cadet classes each biennium, which accounts for about 60 new troopers. Historically, only about four to six percent of the total number of applicants makes the grade to become WSP troopers. Read the WSP press release.

[http://www.wsp.wa.gov/information/releases/2014\\_archive/mr031414.htm](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/information/releases/2014_archive/mr031414.htm)

### **New Law for Motorcyclists Gets Green Light (Washington)**

No motorist enjoys waiting at a traffic light that won't turn green. But the problem is especially vexing for motorcyclists, who often encounter traffic signals with sensors that don't recognize their bikes. A bill aimed at resolving the problem got the green light in the state Legislature and will become law if it's not vetoed by the governor, a rare action. Read the full story in the Auburn Reporter.

<http://www.auburn-reporter.com/news/249954591.html>

## **Other News**

### **Volvo Thinks Magnetic Roads Will Guide Tomorrow's Autonomous Cars**

We live in a world where satellites and microprocessors can tell us how to get anywhere we want to go, but Volvo believes the future of transportation lies with something much simpler: magnets. Yes, magnets. Volvo argues that magnets, unlike electronic transmission, are unfazed by poor weather conditions or obstacles in the road, so they can reliably guide vehicles along the road. It recently completed a research project to test the theory, using a road embedded with magnets and a vehicle outfitted with specialized sensors to determine how accurately and reliably the car could discern its position. Read the full story at Wired.com.

<http://www.wired.com/autopia/2014/03/volvo-magnets-autonomous/>

### **After Fatal Accident, Uber, Lyft Expand Insurance**

Over two months after a six-year-old girl was killed in a car accident with an UberX driver in San Francisco, the smartphone-driven rideshare company announced Friday that it will expand its insurance coverage to include drivers who are waiting for a fare. Previously, it only covered them when they had passengers in the car. Read the full story in Ars Technica.

<http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2014/03/uber-lyft-expand-insurance-policy-to-cover-gap-between-pickups/>

### **A single drink can affect senior drivers, study shows**

For drivers 55 and older, a single glass of wine at dinner can affect driving skills — even if alcohol levels are well below the mark at which the law presumes impairment (0.08 percent). That's the finding of a study at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Researchers discovered that a senior driver can be well below the legal definition of a drunken driver — and still be a potentially dangerous driver. Read the full story in the Tampa Bay Times.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/aging/lifetimes/a-single-drink-can-affect-senior-drivers-study-shows/2170984>

### **The Germans Have Figured Out How to 3-D Print Cars**

The assembly line isn't going away, but 3-D printing is going to reshape how we make cars. The EDAG Genesis points the way, with a beautifully crafted frame made from a range of materials and inspired by a turtle's skeleton. The German engineering firm showed off the Genesis design concept at the Geneva Motor Show as proof that additive manufacturing—EDAG's fancy term for 3-D printing—can be used to make full-size car components. Read the full story at Wired.com.

<http://www.wired.com/autopia/2014/03/edag-3-d-printed-car/>

### **Foreign Destinations For Stolen Canadian Cars**

Big profits overseas for stolen luxury cars, SUVs, even family vehicles. Your car may be on a voyage to somewhere far, far away ... Canada is a major auto-exporting country. Trouble is, some of the cars, trucks and SUVs headed abroad already have owners. While auto theft rates are falling, the lucrative export trade in stolen vehicles shows little sign of going down. By some estimates, 20,000 luxury cars, SUVs and even bread-and-butter family rides are ending up in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central America every year. Read the full story at Autos.CA.MSN.com

<http://autos.ca.msn.com/editors-picks/top-foreign-destinations-for-stolen-canadian-cars>

## **Did You Know**