

# June 27, 2014 - Regional News

---

## AAMVA News

### **Early Bird Registration for Annual International Conference Ends July 17th**

Take advantage of AAMVA's early bird registration rate for the 2014 Annual International Conference. Get registered today and take part in this year's exciting conference at the splendid Dover Downs Hotel & Casino in Dover, Delaware. Visit [www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-Landing-Page/](http://www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-Landing-Page/).

### **Register for Region I Conference**

Register now to join us for our 2014 Region I Conference from July 27-30 in Toronto, Ontario. With sessions focusing on the theme "Transportation Tomorrow - Modernize, Measure, Connect," jurisdictional attendees will learn about the successes and challenges of others, share ideas, build relationships, and discover the many products and services provided by our industry partners that can assist in your mission. Industry attendees will have the opportunity to meet with key players in the motor vehicle and law enforcement arena. Visit the upcoming events section of AAMVA's website to register! <http://www.aamva.org/EventsEducation/Upcoming-Events/>

## Region I

### **Electronic Notices are Sent Before USPS Notices (Maryland)**

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) is announcing a new initiative to send email alerts to customers who have lapsed car insurance and to customers whose driving privileges are about to be suspended. Read the full story at SOMD.com.

<http://somd.com/news/headlines/2014/18323.shtml>

### **Senate Bill Would Require Interlock Devices for DUI Offenders (Pennsylvania)**

Statistics show that McKean County has a serious drunken-driving problem, and area officials say a bill working its way through the state Senate could increase public safety. Senate Bill 1036 would require first-time drunken driving offenders to breath into a machine before their vehicles would start. Read the full story at BradfordEra.com.

[http://www.bradfordera.com/news/article\\_04c19680-f8bd-11e3-87b3-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.bradfordera.com/news/article_04c19680-f8bd-11e3-87b3-0019bb2963f4.html)

### **Parking Valets Don't Have Legal Duty to Withhold Car Keys of Drunken Customers, Pa. Court Says**

Parking valets have no legal duty to refuse to turn over cars to their owners if those drivers are visibly drunk, the state Superior Court has ruled. The court issued that decision this week in upholding the

dismissal of a lawsuit filed against the Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs casino in Luzerne County over a fatal traffic accident. Read the article on [www.pennlive.com](http://www.pennlive.com).

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/06/parking\\_valets\\_dont\\_have\\_duty.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/06/parking_valets_dont_have_duty.html)

## Region II

### **Georgia Announces Online Services Enhancement Drive With Online Receipt until License Arrives**

GA Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell announced today a new customer service initiative to save customers time by encouraging more online driver's license transactions. Beginning July 1, 2014, as a result of the enactment by the Georgia General Assembly of Senate Bill 298, drivers will now be able to use their DDS Online Services receipt in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 40-5-29, as proof of valid driving privileges until their permanent license or permit arrives in the mail. Read the DDS press release.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/>

### **Jindal Vetoes REAL ID Bill, Okays 6-Year Driver's License (Louisiana)**

Gov. Bobby Jindal has vetoed a bill that allows Louisiana to issue driver's licenses that comply with the security measures of the federal REAL ID law. Jindal said he vetoed the bill Friday at the request of Louisiana State Police, which pushed the change. Jindal says the agency requested more time to "vet this change." Read the full story at [WVL.com](http://www.wvl.com).

<http://www.wvl.com/Jindal-vetoes-REAL-ID-bill-okays-6-year-driver-s-l/19263474>

## Region III

### **Jesse White's Legislation Strengthening GDL Program Takes Effect July (Illinois)**

The law proposed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to further improve Illinois' heralded Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program takes effect July 1. The new law requires people ages 18-20 who failed to attend driver education to complete a 6-hour driver training and education course before applying for a driver's license. Read the press release.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/2014/june/140627d1.pdf>

### **New Law Makes Online Renewal of Driver License More Convenient (South Dakota)**

Online renewal of South Dakota driver licenses will be more convenient when a new law easing vision-test requirements takes effect on July 1. The law removes for most citizens, those under the age of 65, the requirement for a statement from an ophthalmologist or optometrist as part of the renewal process. Persons 65 and older must still provide a vision statement. Read the DPS press release.

<http://news.sd.gov/newsitem.aspx?id=16343>

## **Statewide Texting While Driving Ban Effective July 1 (South Dakota)**

South Dakota's Office of Highway Safety reminds drivers that a statewide ban on texting while driving takes effect on July 1. Read the DPS press release.

<http://news.sd.gov/newsitem.aspx?id=16340>

## **Region IV**

### **California Ups HOV Green Sticker Program By 15,000 to 55,000 Total**

While an assembly bill (AB2013) which would see the now exhausted 40,000 "green" sticker program expand up to 85,000 total stickers has been slowly meandering its way through the California system, another bill surfaced as a short-term solution to those looking to get a new Chevrolet Volt, Ford Fusion Energi or Toyota Prius PHV into the HOV lane. Read the full story at [insideevs.com](http://insideevs.com).

<http://insideevs.com/california-ups-hov-green-sticker-program-15000-55000-total/>

### **California DMV Denies Any Data Breach Ever Happened**

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (CA-DMV) has quietly concluded a three-month investigation into an alleged data breach of its online payment system. Their conclusion? A surprising report of 'No problem found.' Read the full story at [IDradar.com](http://IDradar.com).

<https://www.idradar.com/news-stories/identity-protection/California-DMV-Investigation-Says-Data-Breach-Never-Happened>

### **CA Bills to Crack Down on Hit-and-Run Drivers Sail Through Committees**

Two bills focused on addressing hit-and-run crashes, authored by CA Assembly member Mike Gatto, appear quickly on their way to being passed. A.B. 47, which would create an alert system on California highways to help the public assist police in catching drivers involved in hit-and-run crashes, sailed through the Senate Public Safety Committee Tuesday with a 6-1 vote. A.B. 1532, Gatto's other bill which increases fines and penalties for hit-and-run drivers, passed a separate committee. Read the article on [LA Streets Blog](http://LAStreetsBlog.com).

<http://la.streetsblog.org/2014/06/26/california-hit-and-run-legislation-sails-through-committees/>

### **Constable's Office Temporarily Suspends License Plate Law (Nevada)**

Las Vegas' constables office has temporarily suspended its enforcement of the state law requiring new residents to obtain a state license plate. The constable's office made the announcement Thursday based on an injunction from a U.S. District Judge that bars the constable from pursuing the \$100 collection fee against a former Utah woman. Read the full story at [KNPRNews.org](http://KNPRNews.org).

<http://knprnews.org/post/constables-office-temporarily-suspends-license-plate-law>

## **New Mexico Immigrant Driver Licenses Down Substantially**

First-time driver's licenses issued to immigrants in the country illegally plunged by nearly a third in the past year despite no change in New Mexico's policy of granting driving privileges, records show. Read the full story at ClaimsJournal.com.

<http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/west/2014/06/20/250566.htm>

## **2014 Motorcycle Deaths are Double Last Year's (Oregon)**

This spring's rash of motorcycle crashes serve as a poignant reminder that safety should be a top priority for both motorcyclists and drivers. The Oregon Department of Transportation has received preliminary reports of 19 motorcycle fatalities this year (Jan. 1 to June 19); that's a 100 percent increase from the same time period last year. Read the full story at KTVZ.com.

<http://www.ktvz.com/news/odot-2014-motorcycle-deaths-double-last-year/26645838>

## **80 mph Speed Limit Coming to More than Half of Wyoming's Interstate Highway System**

Motorists will soon be able to legally drive up to 80 mph on nearly 500 miles of rural interstate highway in Wyoming, resulting from action taken by the state Legislature during its 2014 session. On July 1, WYDOT crews will begin the process of changing speed limit signs along three sections of Interstate 25, totaling 268 miles in length, as well as on three sections of I-80 (116 miles) and two sections of I-90 (104 miles). Read the WYDOT press release.

<http://www.dot.state.wy.us/news/80-mph-speed-limit-coming-to-nearly-500-miles-of-interstates>

## **Other News**

### **Get tougher on texting while driving, Americans say**

Many Americans want stricter enforcement of texting-while-driving laws and stiffer penalties for violators, according to a new survey. The National Safety Council poll found that 73 percent of respondents wanted more enforcement of texting and driving laws, compared with 22 percent who found current enforcement levels satisfactory. Read the full article in HealthDay News.

<http://consumer.healthday.com/mental-health-information-25/behavior-health-news-56/get-tougher-on-texting-laws-americans-say-689145.html>

### **Supreme Court Limits Police Searches of Cellphones**

Cellphones and smartphones generally cannot be searched by police without a warrant during arrests, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously Wednesday in a major victory for privacy rights. Ruling on two cases from California and Massachusetts, the justices acknowledged both a right to privacy and a need to investigate crimes. But they came down squarely on the side of privacy rights. Read the full story at USAToday.com.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/06/25/supreme-court-cellphone-search-privacy-arrest/10025923/>

### **Match.com Using Facial-Recognition Technology To Help Users Find Dates That Look Like Exes**

Popular dating site Match.com will use photos of users' exes to determine which type of look they're attracted to in order to find them a dating match. The dating site has partnered with Three Day Rule, a Los Angeles-based matchmaking service, which has dating experts that act as personal dating concierges who hand-select and personally meet every potential match before making a formal introduction to clients, Mashable reports. Read the full story on lasvegas.cbslocal.com.

<http://lasvegas.cbslocal.com/2014/06/23/match-com-using-facial-recognition-technology-to-help-users-find-dates-that-look-like-exes/>

### **Study: Prescription Drugs Clouding Drivers**

Drivers who test positive for drugs are more likely to use prescription drugs and to take multiple drugs at once. Drivers who test positive for drugs are more likely than in the past to use prescription drugs and multiple drugs at once, according to a study released by the Public Health Reports on Monday. Read the full story at USNews.com.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/data-mine/2014/06/23/drugged-drivers-use-more-prescription-drugs-multiple-drugs>

### **Study Finds that Electric Cars are Putting the Brakes on Pollution**

Annual sales of electric vehicles have skyrocketed by 500 percent nationwide the past two years, according to a new report, benefiting public health and the environment. Read the full story at MontereyHerald.com.

[http://www.montereyherald.com/business/ci\\_26025530/study-finds-that-electric-cars-are-putting-brakes](http://www.montereyherald.com/business/ci_26025530/study-finds-that-electric-cars-are-putting-brakes)

## **Did You Know**

### **U.S. CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY NEXT WEEK**

On July 4th, the United States celebrates its independence from Great Britain. Across the nation, friends and family will gather to celebrate the day with parades, barbecues and fireworks. Check out some interesting facts about the day that you may not have known:

- In a bizarre, though perhaps apt, twist of fate, Declaration of Independence founders Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on July 4, 1826, cementing its creation of the date's designation.
- Americans began observing the Fourth of July as early as 1777, when the first-ever major celebration in Philadelphia included a parade, a thirteen-shot cannon salute and fireworks, but

Congress didn't make it official until 1870, when it was part of a bill passed to recognize major state holidays at a federal level.

- July Fourth is the "biggest hot dog holiday of the year," according to TIME magazine, with Americans reportedly consuming about 155 million of them on Independence Day alone.
- Due to concerns about cracking the iconic instrument, the Liberty Bell has not been rung since 1846. Instead, every year, to mark the Fourth of July, the 2,000-pound bell is tapped 13 times to signal for bells across the country to start ringing.
- One of the United States' patriotic songs, "Yankee Doodle" was originally sung by British military officers prior to the Revolution as a means to mock the disorganized American colonists who fought alongside them during the French and Indian Wars.
- France, Greece, Poland, Russia and several countries in South America used the Declaration of Independence as a beacon in their own struggles for freedom.
- The Pennsylvania Evening Post was the first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence.
- The American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) estimates that more than 14,000 professional firework displays light up the skies in the United States each 4th of July.

Check out some of these online resources to learn more:

- Twenty Interesting Things About...4th of July (The Pioneer Woman) <http://thepioneerwoman.com/homeschooling/2013/07/twenty-interesting-things-about4th-of-july/>
- Fourth Of July Fun Facts: 10 Things You Probably Didn't Know About Independence Day (Huffingtonpost.com) [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/03/4th-of-july-facts\\_n\\_3542777.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/03/4th-of-july-facts_n_3542777.html)
- The Story of the Fourth of July (ConstitutionFacts.com) <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-declaration-of-independence/fourth-of-july/>
- July 4th (History.com) <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/july-4th>