

October 4, 2013 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Kansas Seeking to Fill Director of DMV Position

The Kansas Department of Revenue is searching for a Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles. A job description can be found at <http://www.aamva.org/Career-Center/>. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to KDOR Recruitment, Docking State Office Building, 915 SW Harrison St., Room 191, Topeka, KS 66612. Submissions may be hand delivered, mailed, faxed to (785) 296-1107, or emailed to KDOR.Recruitment@kdor.ks.gov. Questions may be directed to Human Resources, (785) 296-3077.

AAMVA Webinar: Legalization of Marijuana Highway Safety Implications

Join us on October 16th, 2-3 p.m. (EDT) for a discussion with Courtney Popp (Washington State Patrol) and Brian Ursino (AAMVA). Learn more and register today at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/325881777>

Region III Information Exchange Presentations

Presentations from the 2013 Region III Information Exchange are now available for download from AAMVA's Web site. Visit <http://www.aamva.org/2013-Region-III-Information-Exchange-Presentations/>

Region I

Immigrant Driver's License Bill Delayed for at Least Two Weeks (District of Columbia)

The D.C. Council was set to take a final vote Tuesday on a bill allowing illegal immigrants to apply for District driver's licenses for the first time. But the vote was delayed at least two weeks after the member shepherding the bill through the council said details remained to be worked out with federal authorities. Mary M. Cheh (D-Ward 3) said the two-week delay would allow the language of the bill to be perfected, in part to allay concerns that the measure could run afoul of federal law. Allowing undocumented residents to hold licenses indistinguishable from those held by legal residents could run afoul of the yet-to-be-implemented REAL ID Act, which sets tough standards for state ID cards. Read the full story in the Washington Post. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/mike-debonis/wp/2013/10/01/immigrant-drivers-license-bill-delayed-for-at-least-two-weeks/>

State Police Breast Cancer License Plates (Maine)

With five breast cancer survivors, all associated with State Police, looking on, the first State Police cancer awareness license plate was attached to a Maine State Police cruiser today. Colonel Robert Williams, Chief of the State Police said his department's marked police cruisers will display the plate during October -- Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The plates were purchased by the Maine State

Police Trooper's Association and will later be auctioned off as collector's items by the Maine Cancer Foundation, with the proceeds benefiting three Maine cancer groups. Colonel Williams said, "State Police is pleased to participate in this effort to honor the many lives lost each year and to promote the importance of early detection."

Secretary of State Warns Consumers About Online Driver's License Scams (Maine)

Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap would like to warn consumers about websites claiming to provide new driver licenses and driver license renewals. These websites charge customers, but do not actually issue credentials. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) has received complaints recently about a company called Drivers-Licenses.org. The company implies that a credential can be ordered through the website for a fee; however, once payment is made the customer is simply directed to the State of Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) website. A new Maine driver licenses can only be obtained through the BMV at its various offices and mobile units or through AAA New England locations. A complete listing of BMV locations can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/locations>. Read the full press release on the Maine Secretary of State Web site. <http://www.maine.gov/sos/news/2013/dlscams.html>

Region II

Virginia Starting to Develop a Master Identity Database

Using Department of Motor Vehicles records as its core, the state government is quietly developing a master identity database of Virginia residents for use by state agencies. The state enterprise record - the master electronic ID database - would help agencies ferret out fraud and help residents do business electronically with the state more easily, officials said. While officials say the e-ID initiative will be limited in scope and access, it comes at a time of growing public concern about electronic privacy, identity theft and government intrusion. Read the full story in the Times Dispatch.

http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/va-starting-to-develop-a-master-identity-database/article_772d70fe-28ac-11e3-95ec-001a4bcf6878.html

Texting-While-Driving Ban Officially Becomes an Offense (Florida)

An attempt to curb drivers from texting while driving goes into effect Tuesday, along with laws that put limits on funeral protests, late-night massages and the use of tax dollars at strip joints and liquor stores. Also, a new law creates another specialty license plate, this one — the 121st offered by the state — for the Freemasons. While the majority of the nearly 200 bills approved by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Rick Scott this spring hit the books July 1, another round of new laws goes into effect Oct. 1. Read the full story in the Miami Herald. http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/09/30/3661980_p3/texting-while-driving-ban-officially.html

License Plates for Bikes? Three Lawmakers Say It's Time (Georgia)

A bill supported by three Georgia lawmakers calls for requiring owners of bicycles used on roads to register with the state and obtain a license plate, or face a \$100 fine. Georgia House Bill 689 also says

groups of bicycle riders would have to stay in single-file lines, no more than four cyclists per line, with four feet between each bike. In addition, 50 feet would have to separate each group of four riders, reports Atlanta Business Chronicle WXIA-TV. The bill has been put forward by three Republican lawmakers from Gainesville. A public hearing is scheduled for Monday at 6 p.m. in the Hall County Government Center. Read the full story at BizJournals.com.

http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/morning_call/2013/10/license-plates-for-bikes-three.html

DMV Reverses Position, Now Says Electric Car Maker Tesla Can Apply for Virginia Dealership

Virginia officials now say electric car maker Tesla Motors can apply to operate its own dealership in Virginia. The decision reverses a previous ruling by Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Richard Holcomb. DMV spokeswoman Sunni Brown says additional discussions involving the DMV, Tesla and the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association led to the reversal. Read the full story in the Washington Post.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dmv-reverses-position-now-says-electric-car-maker-tesla-can-apply-for-virginia-dealership/2013/10/02/9841b280-2ba1-11e3-b141-298f46539716_story.html

Region III

BMV to Lower Fees on Various BMV Transactions Effective Immediately (Indiana)

The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) announced today that it is lowering a number of fees following an independent review of its fee structure. Barnes and Thornburg, an Indianapolis-based law firm, conducted the review of the Indiana Code that governs the fees the BMV administers. The review found that a number of fees are governed by multiple statutes. In order to simplify the administration of fees and better serve the driving public, the BMV and the Governor's office will work with the General Assembly to address this complicated statutory system and eliminate future confusion. For a complete list of fees, please visit the official website at www.mybmv.com.

Proposed DOT Rules Would Limit Camera Use (Iowa)

Iowa cities and counties wanting to install traffic enforcement cameras on highways, and jurisdictions with existing systems, would have to justify their use to the Department of Transportation under guidelines proposed Wednesday. The agency developed the administrative rules and set criteria that other government entities would have to meet before installing automated traffic enforcement systems. The rules could be implemented by Feb. 12. Read the full story in the Des Moines Register.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20131003/NEWS10/310030065/1056/news05?gcheck=1>

Michigan Motorists Would Have to Replace License Plates Every 10 Years Under Bill OK'd in State House

Michigan motorists would be required to buy a new license plate every 10 years under a bill approved Thursday in the state House. HB 4633, introduced by Republican Rep. Wayne Schmidt of Traverse City, would prevent the Michigan Secretary of State from renewing any plate that was at least a decade old,

beginning in 2015. Read the full story at [mlive.com](http://www.mlive.com).

http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/10/michigan_license_plates_would.html

House Bill Seeks Tougher Rules on Young Drivers (Ohio)

Young motorists would face new restrictions on when and with whom they can drive, under legislation being considered in the Ohio House of Representatives. Proponents say the tougher rules would help protect 16- and 17-year-olds, who are statistically more likely to die in a car crash. Under House Bill 204, drivers with a probationary license would generally not be allowed to drive without a parent present between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. The bill allows exceptions for work or school activities. Read the full story at [Cleveland.com](http://www.cleveland.com).

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2013/10/ohio_house_bill_seeks_tougher.html#incart_river

Region IV

DUI Involved Crash Fatalities Increased by 5% in 2013 (California)

Over 180,000 people were arrested for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) in 2011. This bit of information as well as a host of other interesting facts on DUI such as arrests, adjudication, treatment and driver license actions can be found in the 2013 California DUI Management Information System (DUI-MIS) Report located on the DMV website, www.dmv.ca.gov. To read the full findings of the DUI-MIS report log onto http://apps.dmv.ca.gov/about/profile/rd/r_d_report/Section_5/S5-243.pdf. Read the news release on the California DMV Web site.

https://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/newsrel/newsrel13/2013_21.htm

Brown to Sign Immigrant License Bill (California)

Gov. Jerry Brown plans to sign legislation Thursday that clears the way for those here illegally to obtain a specially marked driver's license, but the document will not be accepted as identification to board airplanes, enter federal buildings or collect public benefits. Brown's signature brings to an end more than a decade of bitter legislative battles over allowing unauthorized immigrants to drive legally. But for the thousands of unauthorized immigrants, the wait is far from over. The Department of Motor Vehicles is not expected to make the licenses available until next fall at the earliest. Questions of design and cost are still unanswered. The legislation gives the DMV until January 2015 to have the program up and running. Read the full story in UT San Diego. <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/oct/02/brown-to-approve-licenses-for-unauthorized/>

DMV Field Offices Ending Motorcycle Skills Tests (Oregon)

Eight more DMV field offices, including one in Dallas, are stopping their motorcycle skills testing today as the program winds down across the state. In 2009, lawmakers decided motorcycle riders should take a rider education class rather than a skills test in order to get a motorcycle endorsement on their licenses. DMV will discontinue scheduling motorcycle skills testing at eight field offices as of today. The eight

offices are in Burns, Dallas, Florence, Hermiston, Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Ontario and The Dalles. Read the full story in the Statesman Journal.

http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20131001/NEWS/310010014/DMV-field-offices-ending-motorcycle-skills-tests?nclick_check=1

State Plans to Arm Trucking Officers (Montana)

The state Transportation Department intends to arm 35 officers from its Motor Carrier Services Division, a move that drew opposition from the lobbyist for Montana's trucking industry. Motor Carrier Services officers oversee the enforcement of state transportation laws regulating the size and weight of trucks, and they can check truck drivers' permits. On Tuesday, Transportation Director Mike Tooley told the Legislature's Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee of his plans to arm these officers. Read the full story in the Billings Gazette. http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/state-plans-to-arm-trucking-officers/article_c2415f33-8abd-5093-ad84-12b99b90eb70.html

DMV Prepares to Implement AB 60 Testing, Licensing and Insurance Requirements for Undocumented Drivers (California)

DMV today announced that it will begin the process of implementing AB 60 (Alejo)—the new law requiring DMV to issue driver licenses to undocumented persons—by drafting new regulations and preparing field offices to process new applications. The new law becomes operative by January 1, 2015. Read the DMV press release. https://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/newsrel/newsrel13/2013_29.htm

Other News

Nissan Leaf Becomes Japan's First Road-Legal Autonomous Vehicle

A semi-autonomous Nissan Leaf will begin testing across Japan after the car maker received approval from authorities to operate the 'driverless vehicle' on public roads. Nissan president and CEO Carlos Ghosn took delivery of the country's first licence plate for a vehicle equipped with advanced driver assist systems, which allow the Leaf to function without physical input in a range of driving situations. Read the full story in CarAdvice.com. <http://www.caradvice.com.au/253761/nissan-leaf-becomes-japans-first-road-legal-autonomous-vehicle/>