

October 11, 2013 - Regional News

AAMVA News

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

Maine Warns Residents About Driver's License Scams

Maine's secretary of state is warning residents about possible online scams concerning driver's license renewals. Matthew Dunlap said in a statement this week that Maine's Bureau of Motor Vehicles has received some complaints about websites claiming to provide new driver's licenses or renewals, which are charging customers but not providing new licenses. Read the full story at WCSH6.com.

<http://www.wcsh6.com/news/article/259098/2/Maine-warns-residents-about-drivers-license-scams>

DMV Snafu Posts 400 Job Applicants' Personal Info On State Website (Connecticut)

The state Department of Motor Vehicles' commissioner has sent individual letters of apology to about 400 job applicants whose names, home addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and exam scores were posted on the DMV's official website by mistake. The unusual action by Commissioner Melody A. Currey was clearly intended to prevent any strong negative reaction concerning the increasingly sensitive issue of computerized breaches of individual privacy. In this episode, it apparently wasn't an electronic glitch, but a case of human error by those working with the state's computer. Read the full story in Government Watch.

http://articles.courant.com/2013-10-05/news/hc-lender-column-dmv-snafu-1006-20131005_1_currey-personal-info-seymour

Region II

Florida In Line to Get Four New Specialty License Plates

It used to be you could sneeze and get a specialty license plate made in the Sunshine State. No longer. Now, if you want a plate, you've got to get 1,000 preorders before they will start making the metal rectangles. And as of Oct. 1, there are four more options, but only if you start preordering. The four are Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the American Legion, Lauren's Kids (to prevent child sexual abuse) and the Masons. If all get the requisite preorders, which have to be garnered within two years, the state will have 124 available specialty license plates. Read the full story in the Orlando Sentinel.

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/features/blogs/the-list/os-four-new-florida-specialty-license-plates-20131008,0,2004589.post>

ATV Law Too Vague Says Law Enforcement (Mississippi)

The law on all-terrain vehicle use in Mississippi has gotten a little tighter over the past three years. Helmets are now required, as are certification courses for underage operators. But many law enforcement officials say the law still lacks teeth because it provides no penalty for driving ATVs on public roads. Read the full story in the Sun Herald.

<http://www.sunherald.com/2013/10/06/5010656/mississippi-atv-law-too-vague.html>

Transportation Chief: Killing Gas Tax has Helped Drivers, State (Virginia)

Sean T. Connaughton, Virginia's secretary of transportation, said Wednesday that the elimination of the state's gas tax is proving to be a great benefit to the commonwealth's residents. Connaughton spoke to more than 250 people attending the fifth annual Business Forum Luncheon hosted by the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. Read the full story at NV Daily.

<http://www.nvdaily.com/news/2013/10/secretary-of-transportation-speaks-at-business-forum.php>

Region III

Illinois Prepares for Immigrant Drivers Licenses

The Secretary of State's Office is preparing to launch a massive effort that gives as many as 250,000 immigrants who are in the country illegally permission to drive in Illinois. In January, Gov. Pat Quinn signed the state's license law that supporters touted as a public safety issue as well as an important step for immigrant rights. Ten months later, the state is in the final stages of the process and will begin roll out the new licenses in December. Read the full story in the Daily Chronicle.

<http://www.daily-chronicle.com/2013/10/09/illinois-prepares-for-immigrant-drivers-licenses/ab0q8ss/?page=1>

Iowa DOT to Rescind 3,200 Confidential License Plates

The Iowa Department of Transportation is planning to rescind some 3,200 license plates that have a special confidential status and are issued to government agencies, and reissue only those that are justified for sensitive work, a spokeswoman said Friday. Gov. Terry Branstad ordered the DOT in July to

conduct a review aimed at reducing the number of such plates, which allow their drivers to avoid tickets from speed and red-light cameras. Read the full story in the Des Moines Register.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/viewart/20131005/NEWS/310050025/DOT-to-rescind-3-200-confidential-license-plates?News>

Moving DOT patrol cars will have laptops disabled (Iowa)

Iowa Department of Transportation officials said Wednesday they are installing devices that will disable laptop computers when state motor vehicle enforcement officers are driving their patrol cars. The DOT officers, who enforce laws regulating commercial trucks, are provided laptop computers in their vehicles to help perform their jobs. But to avoid possible distractions while officers are behind the wheel, the state agency is installing new software known as "Arch Angel." This will disable the computer in the law enforcement vehicle when it reaches the speed of 15 mph, officials said. For more information, read the press release. <http://apps.itd.idaho.gov/Apps/MediaManagerMVC/NewsClipping.aspx/Preview/73370>

Ohio Bill would Ban Red-Light Cameras

The Ohio Senate on Tuesday began hearings on a bill that would outlaw red-light enforcement cameras and all but eliminate the use of speed cameras. The measure, which Toledo officials have opposed, moved rapidly through the House in the spring before lawmakers recessed for the summer. Read the full story in the Toledo Blade.

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Police-Fire/2013/10/09/Ohio-bill-would-ban-red-light-cameras-Copy.html>

Wisconsin DMV Photographs License Plates To Research Compliance

Wisconsin's Division of Motor Vehicles will be taking a closer look at license plates in coming months, as the department tries to better understand how many vehicles are properly registered. People may soon notice DMV employees taking pictures of their license plates: they're not issuing tickets, and they're not collecting personal information. They're conducting a survey in parking lots across eight counties, including La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Winnebago. DMV officials want to know how many drivers are actually renewing their license plates and filing all the correct vehicle registration paperwork. Read the full story at WPR.org.

<http://news.wpr.org/post/dmv-photographs-license-plates-research-compliance>

Region IV

Brown Signs Law Limiting Detention of Immigrants (California)

Gov. Jerry Brown on Saturday signed several bills to enhance the legal standing of unauthorized immigrants in California, including one that sharply restricts when they can be detained by law enforcement for deportation and another that allows them to practice law under certain conditions. The governor's action comes two days after he signed a law to create a special driver's license for

unauthorized immigrants. Brown intentionally timed his move to coincide with rallies across the nation Saturday urging Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Read the full story in UT San Diego. <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/oct/06/tp-brown-signs-law-limiting-detention-of/>

LAPD tests out new electric motorcycles (California)

The LAPD is testing two types of electric motorcycles as part of an effort to increase efficiency, decrease its carbon footprint and ultimately cut costs. Read the full article on news.msn.com.

<http://news.msn.com/science-technology/lapd-tests-out-new-electric-motorcycles>

California DMV Gears Up for Undocumented Driver License Applications

DMV officials say the agency will hold public hearings around the state as it develops regulations on how to apply for the new licenses. Extra staff may also be hired. DMV spokesperson Jan Mendoza says they will be “looking at all those things like what the person is going to have to bring in and prove and how we’re going to authenticate those documents.” Read the full story at CAPRadio.org.

<http://www.capradio.org/articles/2013/10/09/california-dmv-gears-up-for-undocumented-driver-license-applications/>

California to Pilot Electronic License Plates

Senate Bill 806 was signed by California Gov. Jerry Brown last week, authorizing the state DMV to establish an electronic license plate pilot program. Although the law does not include the requirement of an electronic solution, previous versions of the bill include language about partnering with the private sector on electronic alternatives for payment and processing programs regarding vehicle registration and titling. The pilot needs to be established by Jan. 1, 2017. Read the full article on www.govtech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/transportation/California-to-Pilot-Electronic-License-Plates.html>

Dozens Praise Nevada DMV for New Driver Cards at Public Hearing

Dozens of people thanked the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles on Wednesday for special cards that will allow people in the country illegally to legally drive in the Silver State next year. But at a public hearing held by the agency, the same people also pleaded for the DMV to make the driver authorization cards appear similar to driver licenses so they don’t draw attention from law enforcement officers who might be prone to making arrests based on their possible illegal status. Read the full story in the Review Journal.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/dozens-praise-nevada-dmv-new-driver-cards-public-hearing>

Other News

FBI Data Shows More Women are Being Arrested for DUI

Drunk driving charges against women have risen sharply in recent decades, FBI data shows, even as the number of male drivers arrested for DUI has been in decline. In the early 1980s, female drivers accounted for only about 10 percent of all DUI arrests nationwide. By 2011, however, women made up nearly 25 percent of all drunk driving arrests, according to the Federal Bureau of Intelligence. Meanwhile, the number of male drivers arrested for DUI has been in decline since 1995. While the reasons for this trend are not entirely known, experts theorize that several different factors could be contributing to the increasing rate at which women are being charged with driving under the influence. Read the full story at Word.EInNews.com

<http://world.einnews.com/247pr/364295>

Children More Distracting than Cell Phones, Study Finds

Parents of small children will not be surprised by findings released recently by Australian researchers stating children pose a greater distraction to drivers than talking on cell phones -- a 12 percent greater distraction, to be exact. With all the screaming and crying infants bring to the commute and the fighting and other factors older siblings contribute, we wonder why nobody has pointed a finger at our precious angels sooner. Perhaps because there is little we can do to control when or where our kids decide to dissolve into fits of rage or sorrow. Read the full story in AutoWeek.com.

<http://www.autoweek.com/article/20130416/carnews/130419872>