

October 18, 2013 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Download the Archived AAMVA Webinar: Legalization of Marijuana Highway Safety Implications

In case you missed the October 16th webinar discussion with Courtney Popp (Washington State Patrol) and Brian Ursino (AAMVA), you can now view the archived webinar at <http://www.aamva.org/Webinar-Archives/>

R. Scott Waddell Announces Resignation as Commissioner and AAMVA Board Member

On Tuesday, October 15, 2013, Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) R. Scott Waddell announced that he will be stepping down as Commissioner effective early December. (Read the BMV press release. http://www.in.gov/bmv/files/Waddell_Resignation_Release.pdf) AAMVA has accepted Waddell's resignation as a member of AAMVA's Board of Directors, and as President of the Region III Board, effective immediately. We wish Scott the best of luck in his future endeavors!

Region I

DC Residents Get New Driver's License, ID Card

Beginning in November, Washington, D.C., will change the look of its identification cards. New driver's license and ID cards will have a scaled back look. The redesign will remove the current red, white, and blue, and opt for more subtle colors. All licenses will now be processed after the applicant leaves. It should take about two weeks to receive the new card in the mail. Read the full story at [NBCWashington.com](http://www.nbcwashington.com).

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/DC-Residents-to-Get-New-Drivers-License-ID-Card-227506231.html>

Drivers on State Blacklist File Suit (New York)

Whether the state Department of Motor Vehicles had the statutory authority to deny new licenses to "persistently dangerous drivers" was debated in state court Friday morning. At issue were regulations adopted by the DMV a year ago to keep drivers with a history of alcohol- or drug-related driving convictions off the road. The regulations prompted dozens of lawsuits from drivers who fell under the new rules after previously pleading guilty to driving while intoxicated or driving while ability impaired and losing their licenses. When they sought a new driver's license, after serving a prescribed waiting period and taking alcohol- or drug-related classes, they were turned down by the state as repeat offenders. Read the full story in the Daily Gazette.

http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2013/oct/14/1014_drivers/

Pennsylvania Senate Leader to Seek New Limit of 70 mph

A leading Pennsylvania state senator said Friday it's time to increase the state's maximum allowable speed limit from 65 mph to 70 mph. Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati announced plans to introduce legislation that would allow — but not mandate — the higher maximum speeds on interstates, including the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Read the full story at PressConnects.com.

<http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20131011/NEWS10/310110036/Pa-Senate-leader-seek-new-limit-70-mph>

Voter ID Ads Draw Controversy (Pennsylvania)

A state-paid ad campaign to showcase Pennsylvania's voter photo ID law is generating controversy several weeks before the municipal election. Democratic senators called Wednesday for scrapping the "Show It" campaign, saying it only misleads and confuses voters into believing they need a photo ID to vote in the Nov. 5 election. Read the full story in TheDailyReview.com.

<http://thedailyreview.com/news/voter-id-ads-draw-controversy-1.1570021>

Region II

Driving Law Targeting Non-Citizens Overturned (Louisiana)

The state Supreme Court has struck down a Louisiana law that makes it a felony for noncitizens to drive without proof they are legally in the United States. The opinion, released Wednesday, came in a court challenge out of Lafayette Parish to Louisiana's "operating a vehicle without lawful presence" statute, which carries a penalty of up to one year in prison and a fine of up to \$1,000. Read the full story in The Advocate.

<http://theadvocate.com/home/7334364-125/state-supreme-court-overturns-driving>

Region III

DOT Now Offering Fallen Peace Officer License Plates (Iowa)

A new specialty license plate is now available from the Iowa Department of Transportation. "The Fallen Peace Officer plate is a plat that honors members of Iowa's law enforcement community who have unfortunately lost their lives in the line of duty," Mark Lowe of the DOT explains. "They were authorized by the Iowa Legislature in 2011." Read the full story at Radio Iowa.

<http://www.radioiowa.com/2013/10/07/dot-now-offering-fallen-peace-officer-license-plates/>

Minnesota to offer new license plate

At the community celebration banquet for the Minnesota pheasant hunt opener Friday night, Gov. Mark Dayton and DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr will unveil a new critical habitat license plate design of a

ring-necked pheasant. The new plate will be in addition to the current loon, chickadee, deer, buck, fishing and ladyslipper designs that Minnesota motorists can choose from. The new plate will be available at all registrar offices statewide within a month. Read the article online at KNSIradio.com.

<http://knsiradio.com/news/local/minnesota-offer-new-license-plate/>

Motorists' Seat Belt Use Nears 95 Percent, A Record High (Minnesota)

Minnesotans are buckling up at record high rates, public safety officials said Tuesday in reporting the results of the latest survey of seat belt use statewide. According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Traffic Safety, 94.8 percent of drivers and passengers observed in the June survey were wearing seat belts. That rate is up from 93.6 percent in 2012, when 116 unbelted motorists died in traffic accidents. Read the full story at TwinCities.com.

http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_24318552/minnesota-motorists-seat-belt-use-nears-95-percent

Driver Can Keep Anti-Missouri License Plate

A state appeals court says a Missouri man who roots for the University of Kansas Jayhawks may keep his personalized license plate expressing disdain for the University of Missouri Tigers. The Administrative Hearing Commission last year rejected an effort by Missouri's Revenue Department to recall Toby Gettler's plate, which reads "MZU SUX." The Revenue Department had issued the plate, but tried to recall it on the ground that "SUX" is obscene. Read the full story at KWCH.com.

<http://www.kwch.com/news/kwch-news-1jr-driver-can-keep-antimissouri-license-plate-20131016,0,2085468.story>

Lawmakers Consider Stiffer Penalties for Hitting Bikers, Pedestrians (Wisconsin)

Stiffer penalties could be on the way for drivers who hit a pedestrian or a biker, under a proposal considered Wednesday at the state Capitol. The bill would create a class of "vulnerable highway users," including those on bikes, on foot or even in horse-drawn buggies. The bill says that injuring those groups with a car is worth more than just a fine. Read the full story at Channel3000.com.

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/politics/lawmakers-consider-stiffer-penalties-for-hitting-bikers-pedestrians/-/4030/22477892/-/1492woa/-/index.html>

Region IV

California Veterans Honored With New License Plate

Governor Jerry Brown has signed Assembly Bill 244, authored by Assemblywoman Susan A. Bonilla (D-Concord), which reestablishes the "Veteran" license plate for Californians who have served in the armed forces. Read the full article in Claycord. <http://claycord.com/2013/10/11/california-veterans-honored-with-new-license-plate/>

Transgender Name Changes Made Easier by New Law (California)

The public and costly process for transgender people to legally change the name and gender on their California birth certificate will be streamlined under a law Gov. Jerry Brown signed Tuesday. Equality California Executive Director John O'Connor said the legislation is "a huge victory for making the world a more inclusive place for transgender people. Read the full story in the San Francisco Chronicle.

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/New-law-helps-transgenders-adjust-birth-4879759.php>

Snoopy License Plates: Thousands want 'Peanuts' Beagle on Their Cars (California)

Gov. Jerry Brown has cleared the way for California to begin issuing license plates adorned with the classic Peanuts beagle, Snoopy. Revenue generated from the specialized plate sales will benefit the California Cultural and Historical Endowment and fund museums statewide under AB 482, proposed by Assemblywoman Toni Atkins (D-San Diego). Read the full story in the Los Angeles Times.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-gov-brown-snoopy-license-plate-20131015,0,3924106.story>

DMV Busts Fraudulent Disabled Placard Users (California)

DMV investigators issued 241 citations during a sweeping, statewide crackdown of disabled license plate and placard scofflaws on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. The daylong operation spanned several regions of the state in a planned response to increased complaints from the public. Read the full press release for more details. http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/newsrel/newsrel13/2013_31.htm

Arrest in Driver License Fraud (New Mexico)

An undocumented foreign national living in Memphis, Tenn. was indicted Monday for allegedly charging other undocumented people up to \$2,500 for New Mexico drivers' licenses, according to New Mexico's Taxation and Revenue Department. Read the full story in the Albuquerque Journal.

<http://www.abqjournal.com/281971/news/arrest-in-driver-license-fraud.html>

Other News

As truck accident causes are identified law- and policymakers respond

Those familiar with Kansas City know that a mesh of interstates and highways are set against the city and the metropolitan area. As a transportation hub commercial trucks flow in, out and around the city at all hours of the day. As a result, the area experiences monthly if not weekly highway accidents involving semis and other commercial vehicles. Read the full article on EIN Newsdesk.

<http://world.einnews.com/247pr/364630>

'Teens should wait until 19 before they get a full license' says new report

Transport research group TRL say it could cut accident casualties by more than 4,000 a year. The report recommends teenagers should not be allowed to take their driving test until they are 18 rather than the current age of 17. They would have to have a 12-month "learner stage" beginning at 17 with a requirement for at least 100 hours of day-time and 20 hours of night-time supervised practice. Read the full article in the Daily Star ENGLAND/GREAT BRITAIN NEWS.

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/344454/Teens-should-wait-until-19-before-they-get-a-full-license-says-new-report>

DMV.us.org To Release Report On How To Handle Traffic Complaints

DMV.us.org is releasing a report to help motorists know what to do if they receive a traffic complaint or a potential traffic complaint, the company said yesterday. "What you do from the time you see the flashing red lights in your rearview mirror to the time the complaint is resolved can have a profound impact on whether you pay a fine or not, how much of a fine you pay, and if you go to jail," a DMV.us.org spokesman said. "What we want is to show people the right thing to do in order to minimize the chances that the complaint escalates." The guide will take customers step by step through the entire process of dealing with a traffic complaint, he said. Read the full story at PRWeb.com.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/dmv/traffic-complaint-guide/prweb11241919.htm>