

# December 27, 2013 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

### **This Week's Webinar Archive Now Available for Download**

This week's webinar on Best Practices for Three-Wheel Vehicle Regulation is now available for download. Visit [www.aamva.org/webinar-archives/](http://www.aamva.org/webinar-archives/)

## Region I

### **New York Approves Program to Prevent Teen Texting While Driving**

A new program that utilizes telematics and is aimed at curbing teen texting while driving has been approved in New York state, according to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. The program, from insurer Esurance, allows policyholders to install a device free of charge in their cars to help prevent teens from texting and calling while driving. The initiative, which was reviewed and approved by the Department of Financial Services, lets parents choose to create customized "block lists" that can stop specific cell phone activities when the car is in motion. Read the full story at IFAWebNews.com.

<http://ifawebnews.com/2013/12/22/ny-approves-program-to-prevent-teen-texting-while-driving/>

### **Pennsylvania Town Latest to Force Drivers Over and Ask for Cheek Swabs for Federal Study**

Drivers in a southeastern Pennsylvania town were forced off a local street and into a parking lot, so a federal contractor – aided by local police --could quiz them about their road habits and ask for a cheek swab, in a replay of an incident last month in Texas. The checkpoint, in downtown Reading, was one of several conducted by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, which was hired by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Although the questioning and cheek swab were voluntary, local residents said they were directed by police to pull over, and that the questioning was persistent, according to the Reading Eagle. Read the full story at FoxNews.com.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/12/18/pa-town-latest-to-force-drivers-over-and-ask-for-cheek-swabs-for-federal-study/>

### **Vermont Motor Vehicles to Offer Real ID on January 1**

The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles is preparing to implement new procedures to issue driver's licenses and non-driver identification cards. Starting on Jan. 2, Vermonters will be able to obtain REAL ID compliant identification in person at all motor vehicles offices. Motor Vehicle Commissioner Robert Ide says drivers licenses are no longer just for driving and residents increasingly rely on these documents as proof of identity in their everyday lives. To get a REAL ID, people will need an original or certified copy of their birth certificate or other proof of identity, and proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful presence in the

United States. People will also need proof of their Social Security numbers. Read the full story at SFGate.com.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Vt-Motor-Vehicles-to-offer-Real-ID-on-Jan-1-5086035.php>

## Region II

### **North Carolina Man Sentenced on Odometer Tampering Charges**

Francis Marimo was sentenced today in connection with an odometer tampering scheme, the Justice Department announced. Marimo was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Louise Wood Flanagan in New Bern, N.C., to serve 18 months in prison and one year of supervised release. Marimo also was ordered to pay \$190,845 in restitution. Read the Department of Justice press release.

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2013/December/13-civ-1359.html>

## Region III

### **Secretary of State Jesse White Announces Key Traffic Safety Laws to Take Effect January 1 (Illinois)**

Two important pieces of legislation initiated this year by Secretary of State Jesse White will take effect as new laws on January 1 and include measures that strengthen the state's heralded Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program as well as further restrict the issuance of court supervision. Other new laws effective January 1 make significant changes to the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities. Read the SOS press release.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/2013/december/131226d1.pdf>

### **Drivers License Changes In Iowa For New Year**

There are changes for driver's in Iowa at the start of the new year. The Iowa Department of Transportation's new legislation allows the move from licenses that are valid for five years to licenses valid for eight years. It's an effort to save time and money but it doesn't mean the change will happen for you the next time you renew your license. This transition will occur over the next five years. The DOT says it's issuance system will randomly assign customers five, six, seven or eight-year licenses. The yearly fee won't change. Read the full story at KWQC.com.

<http://www.kwqc.com/story/24291521/drivers-licenses-changes-in-iowa-for-new-year>

### **Michigan Bill Would Strip Driver's License from Truant Kids**

Legislation in Lansing would take away driver's licenses from students who are repeatedly absent from school. Democratic Rep. Andy Schor of Lansing introduced two bills last week in the Republican-controlled state House to combat the problem of truancy. Driving is a privilege and one that young people treasure, making it a good way to motivate them to stay in school, Schor said. Read the full story at Thetimeshearld.com.

[http://www.thetimesherald.com/videonetwork/2954283517001?odyssey=mod%7Cvideo2%7Carticle&nlick\\_check=1](http://www.thetimesherald.com/videonetwork/2954283517001?odyssey=mod%7Cvideo2%7Carticle&nlick_check=1)

### **State Proposal Limits Towing Company Fees (Ohio)**

A year after Cincinnati cracked down on predatory towing companies, state legislators are looking at doing the same. They are likely to get some backlash from the towing industry, though, said a lobbyist who will be meeting with legislators after the holidays. Read the full story at Cincinnati.com.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20131226/NEWS/312260026/State-proposal-limits-towing-company-fees>

## **Region IV**

### **Arizona Driver's License Rule Eased for Immigrants**

Arizona will grant driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants allowed to remain in the country as family members of military personnel, even as it continues to defend a separate decision denying licenses to "dreamers," immigrants who entered the country illegally as children. The Arizona Department of Transportation said this week that undocumented spouses, children and parents of military personnel granted "parole in place" under a new U.S. Department of Homeland Security policy will be eligible for driver's licenses. Read the full story at AZCentral.com.

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/politics/articles/20131224arizona-drivers-license-immigrants-rule-eased.html>

### **Tesla Gets State Tax Break (California)**

A state panel has granted a \$34.7-million tax break to Tesla Motors Inc., which makes high-tech electric vehicles at facilities in Fremont and Palo Alto. The California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority this week approved the credit on sales and use taxes that Tesla would have paid for equipment to expand its production of electric cars and power trains. Read the full story in the Los Angeles Times.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/money/la-fi-mo-tesla-gets-state-tax-break-20131218,0,6973220.story#ixzz2o2aZF1yr>

### **DMV Reminds Motorists of New 2014 Laws (California)**

With 2014 just around the corner, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is reminding motorists of some of the new laws that will become effective in the new year. Read the DMV press release.

[https://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/newsrel/newsrel13/2013\\_41.htm](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/newsrel/newsrel13/2013_41.htm)

### **Starting on January 1, Drivers who Refuse Sobriety Tests Will Be Labeled 'Persistent Drunk Drivers' (Colorado)**

Colorado drunk driving laws are about to get tougher heading into 2014. Starting on Jan. 1, any Colorado driver who refuses a sobriety test will be branded a "persistent drunk driver." Currently, if a driver

refuses to take a blood test or breathalyzer to determine their blood alcohol content, they are treated as a drunk driver. Read the full story at TheDenverChannel.com.

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/starting-on-jan-1-drivers-who-refuse-sobriety-tests-will-be-labeled-persistent-drunk-drivers>

### **Dropouts Could Lose Driver's Licenses (New Mexico)**

A New Mexico lawmaker has an idea to take teens' driver's licenses away if they drop out of school. Nearly 30 percent of New Mexico high school students don't graduate in four years. The lawmaker's bill uses a student's driving privileges as leverage to keep them from dropping out. Republican state senator and former Rio Rancho school board member Craig Brandt pre-filed the bill for the upcoming legislative session. Read the full story at KRQE.com.

<http://www.krqe.com/news/local/dropouts-could-lose-drivers-licenses>

### **Homeland Security to Start Enforcing ID Law in 2014 (Oregon)**

Oregon has until October to comply with a national ID law, or the federal government could refuse to accept Oregon driver's licenses for things like entering a nuclear power plant or a federal court house. That's because the Department of Homeland Security issued a time line Friday for enforcing a law called the REAL ID Act, which passed in 2005 and required each state to add 39 security measures to its processes for issuing IDs. Oregon still falls short on 11 of those requirements. Read the full story in the Statesman Journal.

[http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20131220/UPDATE/131220011/Homeland-Security-start-enforcing-ID-law-2014?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20131220/UPDATE/131220011/Homeland-Security-start-enforcing-ID-law-2014?nclick_check=1)

### **DMV Driving Tests No Longer Required (Oregon)**

It was once considered a rite of passage: Sitting in the lobby of the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, waiting, often with sweaty palms, for the only person standing between you and freedom to call your number out loud. But starting the first of the year, for some that tradition is no longer mandatory. Those who take a driver's education course from a state-certified instructor will not have to take a DMV driving test to receive their license. Read the full story in the Bend Bulletin.

<http://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/1623352-151/dmv-driving-tests-no-longer-required#>

## **Other News**

Study: ATV Crash Deaths Rising on Public Roads

All-terrain vehicles, which are hugely popular among hunters, anglers and other outdoor lovers, are designed for off-road use — their low-pressure tires aren't meant for use on paved surfaces and some are prone to rollovers. They are prohibited on most public roads. But many users are taking their ATVs onto paved roads, and the majority of ATV crash deaths are now occurring on those roads, according to a new report from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. IIHS researchers found that deaths of ATV

drivers and passengers have increased substantially in recent years as the vehicles have grown more popular and more people take them onto roadways. Read the full story in PressConnects.com.

<http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20131226/APHEADS/312260066/Study-ATV-crash-deaths-rising-public-roads>

## Did You Know

### New Years Facts

Each New Years Eve, 1 million people gather in New York City's Times Square.

Close to 1 billion people around the world watch the ball drop in NYC on TV.

At midnight 2,000 pounds of confetti are dropped on the crowd.

The earliest known New Year celebrations were in Mesopotamia and date back to 2000 B.C.

The early Romans used March 1 as New Year's Day. Other cultures used the autumn equinox or the winter solstice to mark the new year.

January is named after Janus, the god with two faces, one looking forward and one looking backward.

Most New Year's traditions are believed to ensure good luck for the coming year. Many parts of the U.S. observe the tradition of eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck.

Another American tradition is the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The Tournament of Roses parade that precedes the football game on New Year's day is made up of elaborate and inventive floats. The first parade was held in 1886.

<http://www.history.com/interactives/new-years-facts-by-the-numbers>

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/12/world/new-years-fast-facts/>

<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/newyearcelebrations.html>