

# December 19, 2014 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

### **System Modernization Working Group Volunteers Needed**

AAMVA is seeking volunteers for the System Modernization Working Group. The Working Group will develop a best practices document related to the procurement, design, development, database migration and purification, testing, implementation, and maintenance of a system modernization effort. Lessons learned will be solicited from those with system redesign experience. Learn more on AAMVA's Web site. <http://www.aamva.org/Committees-and-Working-Groups/#WorkingGroupOpportunities>

## Region I

### **Connecticut DMV Won't Allow Three-Wheeled Vehicle**

The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles has rejected an attempt to vehicle maker Polaris to have its three-wheeled Slingshot classified as a motorcycle. Read the full story at WTNH.com.

<http://wtnh.com/2014/12/18/connecticut-dmv-wont-allow-three-wheeled-vehicle/>

### **State Launches App to Help Users Avoid Drunken Driving (Maryland)**

A new app developed by the state of Maryland to help users avoid drunken driving is now available for free download in online Google and Apple stores. Read the full story at BaltimoreSun.com.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-drunken-driving-app-20141211-story.html>

### **Patrick's Proposal Could Help Ride-Sharing; Would Legitimize Services, Deepen Checks (Massachusetts)**

If Governor Deval Patrick is successful in his last-minute push for state regulation of ride-sharing services, businesses such as Uber and Lyft might have to dig deeper into the backgrounds of potential drivers, a Globe review of their existing policies shows. Read the full story at BostonGlobe.com.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/12/15/governor-patrick-proposed-ride-share-regulations-could-further-legitimize-uber-lyft/MRXuzWX8t01pZuAIDtgILL/story.html>

### **Uber Announces New Safety Measures as Boston Driver Charged with Raping Rider (Massachusetts)**

As ride-hailing company Uber announced new safety measures, one of its drivers in Boston was arraigned on rape charges. Alejandro Done, 46, picked up a woman who ordered a ride home on Uber Dec. 6, authorities said. He presented himself as her driver and demanded to be paid in cash, even though the company's policy is to keep credit cards on file, police said. Read the full article in the NY Daily News.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/uber-vows-improvements-driver-arraigned-rape-charges-article-1.2049341>

### **License Yanked in Pony Car Inspections (New York)**

A Menands gas and service station accused of using a "donor vehicle" for more than a dozen phony emissions inspections should have its license to inspect vehicles revoked, a state appeals court ruled on Thursday. Read the full story at TimesUnion.com.

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Court-Menands-station-used-bogus-inspections-5950711.php>

### **Barbara Fiala Announces Retirement from New York DMV**

New York DMV Commissioner Barbara Fiala has announced her resignation, effective December 31st. During her four-year stint as Commissioner, the New York DMV has succeeded in achieving its Customer Service Initiative by decreasing wait-times and improving customer service. We wish Barbara the best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

### **PennDOT Introduces New App for Parents of Teen Drivers**

The days of parents searching for errant pieces of paper to record their teenager's driving requirements are over, thanks to a new app and curriculum from the state Department of Transportation. It allows parents to track distances, road types and driving conditions while staying focused on the road. Read the full story at YorkDispatch.com.

[http://www.yorkdispatch.com/breaking/ci\\_27140459/penn-dot-introduces-new-app-parents-teen-drivers](http://www.yorkdispatch.com/breaking/ci_27140459/penn-dot-introduces-new-app-parents-teen-drivers)

## **Region II**

### **Tougher Penalties Hope to Curb DUI Charges (Alabama)**

It's that time of the year when many will attend holiday parties and consume alcoholic beverages before getting back behind the wheel. Criminal attorneys say this time of year DUI cases increase as impaired drivers hit the roads. Read the full story at Fox10TV.com.

<http://fox10tv.com/2014/12/11/tougher-penalties-hope-to-curb-dui-charges/>

### **Alabama to Recall License Plate with Gay Slur**

The Alabama Department of Revenue says it will recall a personalized license plate with a gay slur. Revenue Department spokeswoman Amanda Collier says the license plate with the saying "NOHOMO" slipped past its three-member review panel. She says the state prohibits personalized tags with profane or vulgar messages. Read the full story at WJTV.com.

<http://www.wjtv.com/story/27605907/alabama-to-recall-license-plate-with-gay-slur>

### **Supreme Court Upholds North Carolina Traffic Stop**

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday ruled that police officers don't necessarily violate a person's constitutional rights when they stop a car based on a mistaken understanding of the law. The ruling prompted a lone dissent from Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who warned that the court's decision could exacerbate public suspicion of police in some communities. Read the full story at NPR.org.

<http://www.npr.org/2014/12/15/370995815/supreme-court-rules-traffic-stop-ok-despite-misunderstanding-of-law>

### **South Carolina Bill Aims to Require Child Safety Seats for Motorcycles**

A bill that would require babies and small children to be secured to a motorcycle with seat belts is meeting fierce resistance with South Carolina lawmakers. Read the full story at OnLineEathens.com.

<http://onlineathens.com/breaking-news/2014-12-18/sc-bill-aims-require-child-safety-seats-motorcycles>

### **Uber Pressures Regulators by Mobilizing Riders and Hiring Vast Lobbying Network (Virginia)**

On a Thursday in June, bureaucrats from Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles made their move against Uber Technologies. The fast-growing ride-for-hire company was told that its popular service was, in fact, illegal and that the firm needed to immediately cease all operations in the state. Read the full story at WashingtonPost.com.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/uber-pressures-regulators-by-mobilizing-riders-and-hiring-vast-lobbying-network/2014/12/13/3f4395c6-7f2a-11e4-9f38-95a187e4c1f7\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/uber-pressures-regulators-by-mobilizing-riders-and-hiring-vast-lobbying-network/2014/12/13/3f4395c6-7f2a-11e4-9f38-95a187e4c1f7_story.html)

## **Region III**

### **Missouri Bill Would Stop Enforcement of Traffic Cameras**

Missouri cities no longer could use traffic cameras to catch drivers speeding or driving through stoplights under a proposed bill. Read the full story at KSDK.com.

<http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/12/12/missouri-bill-would-stop-enforcement-of-traffic-cameras/20292251/>

### **Traffic Cameras in Ohio on Way Out After House OKs Bill**

Traffic cameras operating in Columbus and other communities across the state could soon disappear. The Ohio House voted 58-31 yesterday to approve a bill requiring police to place an officer at every intersection equipped with a camera. Read the full story at Dispatch.com.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/12/10/1210-house-approves-traffic-camera-bill.html>

### **Ohio AG wants Active Shooter Response Studied**

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine on Thursday directed the state police training commission to examine whether officers statewide are adequately trained to determine when they're dealing with an active shooter and other issues raised in the wake of several recent police shootings nationally. Read the full story at CantonRep.com.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20141211/NEWS/141219816/1994/NEWS>

### **Beefed-up State Bill Sought for Texting-While-Driving (Ohio)**

The texting-while-driving ban has been in effect in Ohio since August 2012, but one of the lawmakers who sponsored that bill wants to make the ban tougher. Read the full story at News-Herald.com.

<http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20141215/beefed-up-state-bill-sought-for-texting-while-driving>

### **Ohio Peace Officer Training Under Review**

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced this week the formation of a special working group to conduct a thorough review of the quality, availability, and practical application of peace officer training. Read the full story at TheVWIndependent.com.

<http://www.thevwindependent.com/news/2014/12/ohio-peace-officer-training-under-review/>

### **New Report Shows DMV Wait Times are Down, Online Services Are up (Wisconsin)**

A new report from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) shatters the myth that service at the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is slow. The report shows the majority of people who visit a Wisconsin DMV customer service center are served in less than 10 minutes, phone contacts are handled in under two minutes and there is immediate service for customers who do business online. Read the DOT press release.

[www.wisconsin.gov/news](http://www.wisconsin.gov/news)

## **Region IV**

### **Supreme Court Refuses To Block Arizona Driver's Licenses For 'Dreamers'**

Arizona hoped an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court would prevent the state from having to grant driving permits to young undocumented immigrants, also known as "dreamers," who entered the country as children. A federal appeals court ruled in July of this year that Arizona must start issuing the licenses to dreamers, who under Obama administration policy are permitted to remain in the United States. Read the full story at Wuft.org.

<http://www.wuft.org/nation-world/2014/12/18/supreme-court-refuses-to-block-arizona-drivers-licenses-for-dreamers/>

### **DMV Reminds New Driver License Applicants to Avoid Scams (California)**

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is reminding DMV customers to avoid scams involving driver license applications, such as efforts to charge for services that DMV offers for free. Read the DMV press release.

[http://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/newsrel/newsrel14/2014\\_80](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/newsrel/newsrel14/2014_80)

### **New Mexico Immigrant License Repeal Effort Begins**

Two New Mexico lawmakers have launched a new effort to repeal a state law that allows immigrants suspected of being in the country illegally to obtain driver's licenses. Read the full story at MercuryNews.com.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci\\_27153213/another-nm-immigrant-licenses-repeal-effort-begins](http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_27153213/another-nm-immigrant-licenses-repeal-effort-begins)

### **Leaders Study Increases for Gas Tax, Sales Tax, Registration Fees (Utah)**

To better fund transportation, legislators are seriously considering big hikes in sales taxes, fuel taxes, vehicle registration fees and perhaps more. Read the full story at SLTrib.com.

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/1904994-155/hikes-studied-for-gas-tax-sales>

### **Marijuana Use Common Among Motorists (Washington)**

A new survey of drivers shows seven out of 10 have used marijuana, and almost half of those have recently driven within a couple of hours after marijuana use. Read the full story at DailySunNews.com.

<http://www.dailysunnews.com/news/2014/dec/11/marijuana-use-common-among-motorists/>

## **Other News**

### **NHTSA Has New App to Help the Tipsy Find a Ride Home**

During the height of the holiday party season, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced that they have an app to help people who've been drinking call a cab or a friend to get them home. Called SaferRide, the app is available for Android devices, and NHTSA says in a release that it will help "keep drunk drivers off our roads by allowing users to call a taxi or a friend and by identifying their location so they can be picked up." Read the full article in Roll Call.

<http://blogs.rollcall.com/technocrat/nhtsa-has-new-app-to-help-the-tipsy-find-a-ride-home/?dcz=>

### **Ford Expands Drivers Air Bag Recall Nationwide**

Ford Motor Co. has agreed to government demands to expand a driver's side air bag inflator recall to the entire U.S. The move announced Thursday adds 447,000 Ford vehicles to the list of those recalled

due to driver's inflators made by Japan's Takata Corp. The inflators can explode with too much force, spewing shrapnel into drivers and passengers. Read the full story at Kvue.com.

<http://www.kvue.com/story/money/consumer/2014/12/18/ford-expands-drivers-air-bag-recall-nationwide/20580231/>

### **Uber Details Plans for Improved Rider Safety, Includes Lie Detector Tests for New Drivers**

Following a recent incident in India where an Uber driver was accused of raping a passenger, there's been increasing scrutiny of the ride-hailing service's background check procedures for hiring new drivers. In a bid to get on top of the situation and provide some balance to the discussion, the company this week moved to reassure users and regulators around the world that it's serious about safety. Read the full article on FoxNews.com.

<http://www.foxnews.com/leisure/2014/12/18/uber-details-plans-for-improved-rider-safety-includes-lie-detector-tests-for/>

## **Did You Know**

### **VEHICLE INSURANCE**

- The world's first car insurance policy was written IN 1897.
- Connecticut's 1925 financial responsibility law required any vehicle owner involved in an accident with damages over \$100 to prove "financial responsibility to satisfy any claim for damages, by reason of personal injury, to, or death of, any person, of at least \$10,000."
- Massachusetts introduced a law to address the problem of accidents, but theirs was a compulsory insurance, not financial responsibility law.
- By the 1940s, with the end of WWII and a subsequent surge in automobile production, most states had passed similar laws.
- In 1956 the New York legislature passed their compulsory insurance law.
- North Carolina followed suit in 1957 and then in the 1960s and 1970s numerous other states passed similar compulsory insurance laws.

Learn more online:

- The Surprisingly Fascinating History of (U.S.) Car Insurance (esuranceblog)  
<http://blog.esurance.com/the-surprisingly-fascinating-history-of-us-car-insurance/#.VJMGg14AA>
- Vehicle Insurance in the United States (Wikipedia)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vehicle\\_insurance\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vehicle_insurance_in_the_United_States)
- Vehicle Entrepreneurship and Politics: A History of Automobile Insurance (Random History)  
<http://www.randomhistory.com/1-50/022insurance.html>