

# January 9, 2015 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

**2015 Workshop & Law Institute Online Registration is Now Open**



Registration is now open for AAMVA's 2015 Workshop & Law Institute, in Fort Worth, Texas, March 18-19. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to network with colleagues from other member jurisdictions across the U.S. and Canada, as well as industry organizations that provide the products and services you may need. Visit the [Workshop & Law Institute Web site](#) for more details.

<http://www.aamva.org/2015-Workshop-and-Law-Institute-Home/>

## **FDR e-Learning Update for 2015**

Fraud Detection and Remediation (FDR) is our most widely-accessed voluntary program. The updated courseware package (January 2015) is now available to member jurisdictions for download. Visit the FDR program page for more information. <http://www.aamva.org/FDR-Training/>

## **2014 IDEC Examiners of Year Are Announced**

The International Driver Examiner Certification (IDEC) Board and AAMVA would like to announce the 2014 IDEC Jurisdictional Examiners of the Year! Each Examiner has been nominated by their jurisdiction for their outstanding performance as a driver's license examiner. Examiners are selected for their excellence in adhering to the principles and recommended practices of driver examining and for their high level of conduct in their profession. To read more about these exceptional examiners, click on their names. <http://www.aamva.org/IDEC-Examiner-of-the-Year/>

## **Region I**

### **Gov. Malloy Selects State Senator Andres Ayala to Serve as Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (Connecticut)**

Governor Dannel P. Malloy today announced that he intends to appoint Andres Ayala of Bridgeport to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when his second term in office begins on January 7, 2015. Ayala will succeed Commissioner Melody Currey, who currently serves in the role and will soon be transitioning as the incoming Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services. Read the full press release.

<http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/cwp/view.asp?A=4010&Q=558430>

### **Undocumented Immigrants Can Apply For Connecticut Driver's Licenses Starting Friday**

Undocumented immigrants in Connecticut can apply for driver's licenses starting Friday (January 2). That's the result of a law passed in 2013. State Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner Melody Currey says the move will give licenses to many drivers who are already on Connecticut roads. Read the full story at NEPR.net.

<http://nepr.net/news/2014/12/31/undocumented-immigrants-can-apply-for-conn-drivers-licenses-starting-friday/>

### **DMV Director Nominated as Next DeIDOT Secretary (Delaware)**

Governor Jack Markell has nominated DMV Director Jennifer Cohan to become DeIDOT's next secretary. Cohan, who still has to be confirmed by the Delaware State Senate, would replace Shailen Bhatt who is leaving his Delaware post to become Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation. Read the full story at Delaware1059.com.

<http://www.delaware1059.com/story.php?id=13979>

### **Maryland App Hits Big Milestone: 500,000 Downloads**

A mobile app developed by Maryland's Motor Vehicle Administration to help prospective drivers pass the state's driving test reached a major milestone just before the holidays when it passed more than 500,000 downloads between the Apple and Android app stores. Read the full story at StatesCoop.com.

<http://statescoop.com/maryland-app-hits-big-milestone-500000-downloads/>

### **New Massachusetts Bill Aimed to Increase Safe Driving**

Massachusetts lawmakers are hoping to brighten up the state's roadways with a new proposal that was just passed by the House on Monday. The bill would require motorists to use their headlights whenever their windshield wipers are needed, and when visibility is reduced at a distance of 500 feet. The idea is to help increase safety on the streets. Read the full story at WWLP.com.

<http://wwlp.com/2014/12/22/new-ma-bill-aimed-to-increase-safe-driving/>

### **State Troopers Reject Latest Contract offer (New York)**

It's back to the bargaining table for state troopers as members of their union voted down a contract offer that would have run through March 2018. While the supervisors, including sergeants and majors in the State Troopers PBA said yes to their offer, the much larger troopers unit failed to ratify their contract proposal. Read the full story at TimesUnion.com.

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Troopers-vote-down-contract-offer-6003352.php>

### **Pennsylvania Gas Tax Increases As Prices Drop**

Driving in Pennsylvania will likely cost you more money in 2015, thanks to a new gas tax. The 10-cent per gallon increase began New Year's Day, and would directly benefit the commonwealth's infrastructure. Read the full story at ErieTVNews.com.

<http://www.erienvnews.com/story/27743521/pa-gas-tax-increases-as-prices-drop>

### **DMV to Crack Down on Uninsured Drivers Across Rhode Island**

The Rhode Island Department of Motor Vehicles is taking action to crack down on residents driving without car insurance, even though it is required by law. By using the Uninsured Motorist Identification Database, lawmakers and the DMV will be keeping closer tabs on who has car insurance and who does not. Read the full story at WPRI.com.

<http://wpri.com/2014/12/17/dmv-to-crack-down-on-uninsured-drivers-across-ri/>

## **Region II**

### **Georgia Driver Examiner Honored for Customer Service, Receives Examiner of the Year Award from National Organization**

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell announced today that Mary "Jill" Kitchens has been named Georgia's Driver Examiner of the Year by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). Read the press release.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/>

### **Kentucky Launches Website to Process Motor Carriers' Fuel Tax Returns**

Beginning this month, Kentucky will start processing its own International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) returns, simplifying the procedure and saving taxpayer money. It's a process that's been two years in the making. Read the DOT press release.

<http://kentucky.gov/Newsroom/kytc/2015-01-06+IFTA+tax+website.htm>

### **State Justices Strike Down Uninsured Driver Law as Unconstitutional (Oklahoma)**

The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled Tuesday, Oklahoma's "No Pay No Play" law is unconstitutional. The law was passed in 2011. There were a few exceptions, but the law said most drivers without insurance could not sue for pain and suffering damages if they were in a car accident. Read the full story at ABC3340.com.

<http://www.abc3340.com/story/27645822/state-justices-strike-down-uninsured-driver-law-as-unconstitutional>

## **Mature Driver Law Change Goes into Effect January 1; Drivers 75+ Must Renew Licenses in Person Every Five Years (Virginia)**

Beginning January 1, 2015, Virginia law requires drivers age 75 and older to visit a Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) customer service center every five years to renew their driver's licenses. Read the DMV press release.

[http://www.dmv.state.va.us/general/news/pressReleases/#/Recent\\_News](http://www.dmv.state.va.us/general/news/pressReleases/#/Recent_News)

## **Tomblin Taps Reed as New Commissioner of West Virginia DMV**

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin is appointing Patricia Reed as the new commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles. Tomblin announced the appointment Tuesday. Read the full article on WTRF.com.

<http://www.wtrf.com/story/27772163/tomblin-taps-reed-as-new-commissioner-of-west-virginia-dmv>

## **Region III**

### **Illinois Driving Allowed Without Sticker Under Law (Illinois)**

Legislation proposed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to allow a printed receipt from the Secretary of State to serve temporarily as the vehicle renewal sticker becomes law on Jan. 1, 2015. Read the SOS press release.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/home.html>

### **Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent to Retire in January**

The top official of the Kansas Highway Patrol will retire in January, the agency said Monday. Lt. Josh Kellerman, public information officer with KHP, confirmed Col. Ernest Garcia will retire as KHP superintendent on Jan. 5. He has been with the agency since Gov. Sam Brownback appointed him to its top position in January 2011. Read the full story at CJOOnline.com.

<http://cjonline.com/news/2014-12-08/kansas-highway-patrol-superintendent-retire-january>

### **Major Mark Bruce Named Interim Superintendent of Kansas Highway Patrol**

Governor Sam Brownback has appointed Major Mark Bruce as Interim Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol. For the past 25 years, Major Bruce has served the citizens of Kansas as a State Trooper in various capacities. While in the interim, through his guidance and leadership, the Patrol will continue to provide the professional services it is known for. Read the KHP press release.

<http://www.kansashighwaypatrol.org/press/2015/2015-01.html>

### **Immigrant Driver's License Issue Sent to State Court (Nebraska)**

A lawsuit attempting to force Nebraska to issue driver's licenses to immigrants brought to this country illegally by their parents has been sent to state court. Read the full story at NebraskaRadioOneNetwork.com.

<http://nebraskaradionetwork.com/2014/12/22/immigrant-drivers-license-issue-sent-to-state-court/>

### **New Ohio Driver License and Identification Cards in Circulation Statewide**

Effective today, January 5, 2015, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will issue a new format of Ohio's Driver License (DL) and Identification Cards (ID) to customers renewing their DL or ID. Read the DPS press release.

[http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/MR2015/01-05-bmv-NewDL\\_ID.pdf](http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/MR2015/01-05-bmv-NewDL_ID.pdf)

### **Ohio Sees Drop in Speeding Tickets Since Switch to 70 mph Limit on Some Stretches of Highways**

Troopers in Ohio have been writing fewer speeding tickets on the rural stretches of interstates where the speed limit increased to 70 mph almost a year and a half ago. Read the full story at ToledoBlade.com.

<http://www.toledoblade.com/State/2015/01/03/Ohio-sees-drop-in-speeding-tickets-since-switch-to-70-mph-limit-on-some-stretches-of-highways.html>

### **Ohio May Lift Penalties for Driving with Pot**

Ohio lawmakers are taking early steps toward lifting Ohio's driving penalties for marijuana possession. A resolution scheduled for a possible committee vote Tuesday declares the Legislature's opposition to a 1990 federal law that requires a six-month suspension or revocation of a driver's license after a drug offense conviction, even when the violation is unrelated to driving. Read the full story at CantonRep.com.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20141215/News/141219582#ixzz3OLRdfBVO>

### **New Tech Planned for South Dakota 911 System**

New technology will enhance emergency communications in South Dakota when Next Generation 911 is deployed. TeleCommunications Systems, Inc., (TCS) of Annapolis, Md., will provide and operate the NG911 system for the next five years under the direction and guidance of the South Dakota 911 Coordination Board. Read the DPS press release.

<http://news.sd.gov/newsitem.aspx?id=17132>

### **Wisconsin State Patrol Welcomes 47 New Officers to its Ranks**

After 23 weeks of intense training, 47 cadets were sworn in and received their badges as Wisconsin State Patrol officers during a graduation ceremony in Madison on Friday, Dec. 19. Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. Read the DOT press release.

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/index.htm>

## Region IV

### **Protected Immigrants Allowed to Get Driver's Licenses (Arizona)**

A judge cleared the way Thursday for thousands of young immigrants in Arizona who are protected from deportation under an Obama administration policy to get driver's licenses. The preliminary injunction issued by U.S. District Judge David Campbell bars the state from enforcing Gov. Jan Brewer's policy of denying the licenses to about 20,000 immigrants. Read the full story at NHRegister.com.

<http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20141219/protected-immigrants-allowed-to-get-drivers-licenses>

### **DMV Releases AB 60 Implementation Statistics (California)**

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) today released preliminary statistics on the progress of implementing Assembly Bill 60 (AB 60) – the new law requiring DMV to issue a driver license to applicants who can prove identity, California residency, and can meet all other testing requirements. Read the DMV press release.

[http://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/newsrel/newsrel15/2015\\_03](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/newsrel/newsrel15/2015_03)

### **Over Half Seeking California Immigrant Driver's Licenses Fail Test**

The first applicants to seek California driver's licenses for immigrants without legal status failed the written test at a rate slightly higher than the state average, according to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Read the full story at SCPR.org.

<http://www.scpr.org/blogs/multiamerican/2015/01/06/17767/calif-dmv-immigrants-drivers-license-AB60/>

### **DMV Delays Rules for Driverless Cars as it Seeks More Input on Safety (California)**

Self-driving cars may be the vehicles of the future, but the California Department of Motor Vehicles is still trying to figure out how to regulate them. The DMV will miss a New Year's deadline set by a state Senate bill to establish regulations for driverless cars. Read the full story at TechWire.net.

<https://www.techwire.net/dmv-delays-rules-driverless-cars-seeks-input-safety/>

### **ITD, Lawmakers Push for Fuel Tax (Idaho)**

While gas prices are dropping, some are calling for a fuel tax increase. The state transportation department and lawmakers want a tax increase to allow for maintenance on highways and bridges. Read the full story at LocalNews8.com.

<http://www.localnews8.com/news/idaho-transportation-department-lawmakers-push-for-fuel-tax/30549054>

### **DMV Moves to New Temporary Tag System (Nevada)**

Nevada's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has taken steps to make temporary vehicle tags more secure and less vulnerable to fraud, according to DMV Director Troy Dillard. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.dmvnv.com/news/15001-new-temporary-tags.htm>

### **SGI Seeks Facial Recognition Software Bidders (Saskatchewan)**

Saskatchewan's provincial insurer is looking for someone to create the province's driver's licence and use some new technology in doing so. SGI has issued a request for proposals for its new licence and ID production services. The current contract ends in March 2016. Vendors have until Feb. 13 to submit proposals. Read the full story at TheStarPhoenix.com.

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/technology/seeksfacialrecognitionsoftwarebidders/10669506/story.html>

### **Utah's Jill Law Retires**

Jill Laws, Deputy Director of the Utah Driver License Division retired on December 11, 2014 after 35 years of service to the Division. Jill started working for the Division in 1973 and recalls that "there were no computers; all the files and documents were paper. Driving record information was sent to key punch companies, and then we would receive stacks of perforated paper which we would fold, tear apart, and file." Over the years, Jill worked as an office clerk, customer service representative, typist, data entry clerk, supervisor, hearing officer, bureau chief, and finally the Deputy Director. As she worked her way up through those positions, she served in nine different office locations within the Division. Her knowledge and wisdom gained from years of experience were invaluable as Utah adopted the REAL ID Act in 2010 and programming was written to implement the documentation process for over 2,000,000 Utah citizens. She became an expert in finding resolutions for citizens with documentation problems and in helping to overcome many unforeseen obstacles as the new procedures were put into practice. She was also instrumental in assisting with numerous legislative issues affecting the Division.

### **WSP Launches Online Scheduling Program for VIN Inspections (Washington)**

If you are one of the many individuals who need a Washington State Patrol vehicle inspection, the process for scheduling just got easier. WSP is announcing the launch of an online program designed to streamline the process for scheduling a VIN inspection. Better yet, the new system will help you determine if your vehicle needs an inspection at all. Read the WSP press release.

[http://www.wsp.wa.gov/information/releases/2014\\_archive/mr123014.htm](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/information/releases/2014_archive/mr123014.htm)

### **Butler Announces Change in WHP Policy (Wyoming)**

Methods for gauging the performance of Wyoming Highway Patrol troopers will change in 2015, Patrol Administrator Col. John Butler announced today. The recent mandate requiring a specified number of traffic stops made and citations issued by any individual trooper will no longer be used as a performance measurement during job evaluations. Read the DOT press release.

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/technology/seek+facial+recognition+software+idders/10669506/story.html>

## Other News

### **NHTSA Report: Motorcycle Deaths are Down Sharply**

Motorcycle fatalities on U.S. roadways dropped dramatically in 2013 for the first time since 2009. It's only the second time annual deaths have fallen since 1997. But as automobile deaths continue to fall, with better safety features in cars, motorcycle fatalities for 2013 accounted for a growing share of all traffic deaths — 14 percent, up from 9 percent a decade ago. Read the full story at YaimakaHerald.com.

<http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/latestnews/2795077-8/nhtsa-report-motorcycle-deaths-are-down-sharply>

### **Red-Light Cameras Fade as Speed Cams Get Green Light**

Motorists rejoicing over decisions to discontinue unpopular red-light camera programs don't have to drive too far for a buzzkill. The number of red-light cameras nationwide is falling because of opposition from lawmakers and average Joes — but the use of cameras to catch speeders is slowly rising, potentially signaling a new battleground. Read the full story at NorthJersey.com.

<http://www.northjersey.com/news/red-light-cameras-fade-as-speed-cams-get-green-light-1.1183305>

### **Uber Advises Drivers To Buy Insurance That Leaves Them Uncovered**

At a presentation for would-be Uber drivers attended by BuzzFeed News, a company representative advised getting less-expensive “personal” insurance that can leave drivers uncovered and in some cases lead them to incorrectly register their cars in violation of the law. Read the full story at BuzzFeed.com.

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/kenbensinger/ubers-yawning-insurance-gap#.ycNB1IMJB>

### **Decline in Crash Deaths Brings Road Fatality Rate to Record Low**

Not all of the goals we work toward at DOT allow for straightforward measurement, but with our number one priority--safety--the statistics tell a pretty clear story. And on Friday, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released the 2013 Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data showing a 3.1 percent decrease in the number of road deaths from the previous year and a nearly 25 percent decline since 2004. The estimated number of people injured in crashes also declined by 2.1 percent from 2012. Read the full story at Transportation.gov.



<http://www.transportation.gov/fastlane/decline-crash-deaths-brings-road-fatality-rate-record-low>

### **Study: Daydreaming, Not Texting, Biggest Driving Distraction**

Daydreaming, not cell phone use, may be the biggest distraction on the road, according to a new insurance company report. Erie Insurance analyzed a nationwide census of fatal car crashes in 2010 and 2011, outlining the top 10 driving distractions. Driving distractions were found to be the cause in one of every 10 fatal car accidents, accounting for more than 6,500 deaths in the past two years. Read the full story at KVUE.com.

<http://www.kvue.com/story/news/2014/05/23/2373884/>

## **Did You Know**

### **VEHICLE THEFT**

- 699,594 motor vehicles were reported stolen in the U.S. in 2013, down 3.3 percent from 2012, according to the FBI
- A motor vehicle was stolen in the U.S. every 45 seconds in 2013
- Nine of the top 10 cities with the highest rate of vehicle theft in 2013 were in California, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau.
- American vehicles tend to be the auto thief's vehicles of choice in Detroit and Chicago; pickups are popular in Albuquerque, Phoenix and Houston; and Japanese models lead the most commonly stolen list in Los Angeles.
- In 2012, a small increase in vehicle thefts ended a consecutive eight-year run of decreasing thefts. However, the 2013 NICB data shows thefts are once again on the decline.
- Auto theft is covered by the optional "comprehensive" coverage on your auto policy. The average comprehensive insurance premium in the U.S. rose slightly (0.51 percent) from \$132.38 in 2009 to \$133.06 in 2010 (the most recent data available), according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.
- More than \$4.1 billion was lost nationwide to motor vehicle thefts in 2013.

Find more information online:

- Insurance Information Institute <http://www.iii.org/issue-update/auto-theft>
- Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association [http://www.rmiiia.org/auto/auto\\_theft/statistics.asp](http://www.rmiiia.org/auto/auto_theft/statistics.asp)
- Lo Jack <http://www.lojack.com/About-Vehicle-Theft-and-Theft-Prevention/About-Car-and-Truck-Theft-and-Theft-Prevention/Theft-statistics-and-trends-for-cars-and-trucks/FBI-Statistics>
- Auto Theft Information Clearinghouse <http://www.auto-theft.info/>
- National Motor Vehicle Title Information System <http://vehiclehistory.gov/>