

# February 20, 2015 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

### 2015 CDL/IT Coordinators Meeting

AAMVA and FMCSA recently held the 2015 CDL Coordinators/IT meeting in Charlotte, NC. More than 300 state and federal CDL experts were in attendance to discuss national CDL issues such as compliance with the CDL Permit & Testing Rule, upcoming Medical Certification rulemakings, and other MAP-21 requirements. IT professionals attended breakout sessions on CDLIS reports and updates, S2S, and CSTIMS, and more. Development of the event's Downloads Page has already begun. An announcement will be posted on AAMVA's homepage as soon as the presentations are available for download by AAMVA jurisdiction and federal government members. Presentations from past events are available on AAMVA's Web site at [www.aamva.org/Presentations-from-Past-Events/](http://www.aamva.org/Presentations-from-Past-Events/)

### 2015 Workshop and Law Institute Is Less than a Month Away!



The 2015 Workshop and Law Institute

[www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5924](http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5924) is right around the corner— March 18-19, in Fort Worth, Texas. 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. Register online today! <https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

## Region I

### County Clerks Lobbying for Updated Photos on Driver's Licenses; Want to Keep More of Revenue Collected (New York)

Motorists would be required to regularly update the photograph and signature on their state driver's license under legislation proposed by county clerks throughout the state. The state Association of County Clerks also is lobbying state officials to allow individual counties to keep a larger share of fees collected when transactions are processed at local Department of Motor Vehicle Offices. The state now retains 87.3 percent of those revenues. Read the full story at [WatertownDailyTimes.com](http://WatertownDailyTimes.com).

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/news05/county-clerks-lobbying-for-updated-photos-on-driverx2019s-licenses-want-to-keep-more-of-revenue-collected-20150215>

### **Toronto Using 'Emotional Messaging' to Curb Distracted Driving (Ontario)**

Electronic traffic signs along the Gardiner Expressway, Lake Shore Boulevard and the Don Valley Parkway have taken a decidedly emotional tone with messages including "someone loves you, drive safe" and "leave sooner, drive slower, live longer." Read the full story at GlobalNews.CA.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1835361/toronto-using-emotional-messaging-to-curb-distracted-driving/>

### **PennDOT Prepares for 'Cars of the Future'**

Pennsylvania is on track to be one of the first states with self-driving cars on the road, if you take into account that its Department of Transportation is at the forefront of a changing industry. State representatives sit on a national committee to keep up on the progress of self-driving cars. Many features in 2015's cars are leading up to the day they hit the market. Read the full article on FOX43.com.

<http://fox43.com/2015/02/18/penn-dot-prepares-for-cars-of-the-future/>

### **Pennsylvania Lawmakers Seek Ignition Interlocks For First Time DUI Offenders**

State lawmakers believe they are close to enacting legislation that would require ignition interlock systems for some first-time offenders convicted of driving under the influence. The chairman of the state Senate Transportation Committee, John Rafferty, has been pushing for the legislation for four years, and is optimistic it will get done in the new session. The breathalyzer-like ignition interlocks are already required for repeat DUI offenders. Read the full story at Philadelphia.CBSLocal.com.

<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2015/02/15/pa-lawmakers-seek-ignition-interlocks-for-first-time-dui-offenders/>

### **Hunting Heritage License Plates Now Available in Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania hunters can now display their love of the sport with an official license plate. The state's new Hunting Heritage license plate issued by the Department of Transportation is available to order from the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Read the full story at TheIntell.com.

[http://www.theintell.com/news/local/hunting-heritage-license-plates-now-available-in-pa/article\\_885d21b6-763a-51a8-a264-5a9fcad2abe5.html](http://www.theintell.com/news/local/hunting-heritage-license-plates-now-available-in-pa/article_885d21b6-763a-51a8-a264-5a9fcad2abe5.html)

## **Region II**

### **High-Tech Wrong-Way Alerts Reducing Accidents (Florida)**

A new wrong-way driver alert system in Florida has already helped improve safety in its first three months of operation, detecting six incidents in that timespan with no crashes reported. The pilot

project, deployed by the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), employs a ramp-based detection and deterrent system. LED-equipped wrong-way signs were installed at six interchanges and ten ramps on the Homestead Extension of the Florida Turnpike and five interchange ramps on the Sawgrass Expressway. Read the full story at RoadsBridges.com.

<http://www.roadbridges.com/traffic-management-high-tech-wrong-way-alerts-reducing-accidents-florida>

### **Lt. Gov. Dan Forest Launches Specialty License Plates to Fund Teacher Raises (North Carolina)**

Lt. Gov. Dan Forest needs at least 500 people to sign up for "I Support Teachers" license plates, part of his effort to fund teacher raises through private donations. Forest announced last May that he's creating the North Carolina Education Endowment Fund, which will allow individuals and corporations to receive tax deductions for supporting teacher pay. Read more at NewsObserver.com.

[www.newsobserver.com/2015/02/17/4562755/lt-gov-dan-forest-launches-specialty.html#storylink=cpy](http://www.newsobserver.com/2015/02/17/4562755/lt-gov-dan-forest-launches-specialty.html#storylink=cpy)

### **Texas Man Sentenced to Two Life Terms After 10th DWI**

Bobby Gene Martin's brushes with law enforcement for driving drunk date to 1981. But this week, his more than 30-year streak of DWI arrests came to an abrupt end. A Texas jury convicted the 64-year-old of his 10th drunk driving offense along with a retaliation charge for threatening to harm the arresting officer and his family. They gave him two life sentences. Read the full article in the Washington Post.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/02/13/texas-man-sentenced-to-two-life-sentences-after-10th-dwi/>

### **Governor McAuliffe Signs Legislation Enabling Transportation Network Companies to Legally Operate in Virginia**

Today Governor McAuliffe signed SB1025 and HB1662, which established licensing procedures for transportation network companies (TNC's) like Uber and Lyft to legally operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Earlier this year, Governor McAuliffe and Attorney General Herring's offices worked with the Department of Motor Vehicles and TNC companies to find a compromise that allowed these entities to temporarily operate in Virginia until the General Assembly passed permanent legislation. View photos from the event. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/governorva/sets/72157648555062013/>. Read the full press release.

<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=7746>

### **Officers, Advocates Recognized With Highway Safety Awards (West Virginia)**

The Huntington Region of the Governor's Highway Safety Program recognized those that have performed outstanding work last year in activities related to highway safety during an awards ceremony Thursday at HIMG. These award winners were involved in all aspects of highway safety in 2014 from law

enforcement, individuals and corporate programs to government administration and media. Read the full article in The Huntington Dispatch.

<http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/x2065778987/Officers-advocates-recognized-with-Highway-Safety-awards>

## Region III

### **Illinois Driver's Licenses And ID Cards Might Not Be Good Enough To Fly Next Year**

By the end of the year, Illinois residents might need more than their driver's license or state identification card to get aboard a commercial airliner. Illinois has been dragging its feet on federal security rules for state-issued driver's licenses and ID cards. Read the full story at Chicgo.CBSlocal.com.

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2015/02/11/illinois-drivers-licenses-and-id-cards-might-not-be-good-enough-to-fly-next-year/>

### **MnDOT to Guide Visually Impaired Through Work Zones with an App (Minnesota)**

It's tough enough for the visually impaired to get around town. Throw in some construction zones and the difficulty level goes up a notch or two. However, an app in the works by the Minnesota Department of Transportation is working to make it a bit easier. Anthony Lawler hit the streets for a bit of mobility training with an instructor from Vision Loss Resources in Minneapolis. He's been visually impaired his whole life. "I have Starsgardt which is a form of macular degeneration. I just have no central vision," he said. Read the full story at KSTP.com.

<http://kstp.com/article/stories/S3710337.shtml>

### **North Dakota Senate Passes Enhanced Driver's License Bill Allowing More Convenient Border Crossings**

The North Dakota Senate overwhelmingly approved a bill Tuesday to provide enhanced driver's licenses, a move that proponents said could make it more convenient for residents to cross the Canadian border. The bill, Senate Bill 2148, was passed 45-2 Tuesday. Only Sen. Connie Triplett, D-Grand Forks, and Sen. Oley Larsen, R-Minot, voted against it. Read the full story at Inforum.com.

<http://www.inforum.com/news/legislature/3681328-nd-senate-passes-enhanced-drivers-license-bill-allowing-more-convenient>

### **Ohioans Could Soon Renew License-Plate Tags at Supermarkets, Under BMV Test Program**

Renewing your Ohio vehicle registration might soon be as easy as a trip to your local supermarket. The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles is preparing to test self-service kiosks in supermarkets in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus, according to the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The machines are part of the agency's "BMV4U" pilot project set to start in the next six to eight weeks, said DPS Director John Born. Read the full story at Cleveland.com.

[http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/02/ohioans\\_can\\_soon\\_renew\\_license.html#incart\\_river](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/02/ohioans_can_soon_renew_license.html#incart_river)

## Region IV

### **Lawmaker Calls for Transportation Department to Issue Electronic Driver's Licenses (Arizona)**

There would be one less reason to carry a wallet if a state lawmaker succeeds in allowing Arizonans to carry their driver's licenses on wireless devices. Sen. Jeff Dial, R-Chandler, authored legislation that would require the Arizona Department of Transportation to create electronic driver's licenses. SB1237 also says that when producing the license for law enforcement a driver wouldn't be consenting to a search of any other information on the device. Read the full story at CronkiteNewsOnline.com.

<http://cronkitenewsonline.com/2015/02/lawmaker-calls-for-electronic-drivers-licenses/>

### **DMV: 236,000 Applied for Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants in January (California)**

About 236,000 people statewide applied for special driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants in January, the first month the licenses were made available, the California Department of Motor Vehicles said Wednesday. DMV said it issued about 59,000 licenses to undocumented immigrants in January. In addition, more than 20,000 licenses have been issued so far in February. Read the full story at PE.com.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/undocumented-760565-asdf-dmv.html>

### **California May Finally Regulate Motorcycle Lane-Splitting**

It is morning on the freeway. Rush hour. Your sedan cruises along with the flow of traffic, hitting a whopping top speed of 15 miles per hour. And then: vrooom!! A motorcyclist zips by doing 40 mph, inches from your side view mirror. The rider is partaking of the quasi-legal practice of lane-splitting, riding a motorcycle between cars in adjacent lanes. Though irritating or unnerving to many drivers, lane-splitting is not outlawed in California. While all other states prohibit lane-splitting, the Golden State does not. And though it isn't explicitly permitted, that may change soon. Read the full story at KCET.org.

<http://www.kcet.org/news/agenda/transportation/lane-splitting.html>

### **House Set to Vote on REAL ID-Related Bill (Idaho)**

House bill 96 could affect the way you board a commercial airliner next year or enter federal facilities. The bill seeks to add security enhancements to Idaho's drivers license and continue a compliance extension request (a loophole of sorts) that basically exempts the state from the federal government's 2005 Real ID Act, which imposes uniform national security standards on drivers licenses issued in America. Read the full story at KBOI2.com.

[http://www.kboi2.com/news/local/house\\_bill-292488651.html](http://www.kboi2.com/news/local/house_bill-292488651.html)

## **Bill by Sen. Smith Would Push Back Age at Which Elderly Drivers Must Get Annual Renewals (New Mexico)**

One silver-haired, silver-tongued New Mexico legislator wonders if the state is practicing ageism by requiring drivers 75 and older to renew their licenses in person every year. Sen. John Arthur Smith introduced a bill Tuesday to raise the age threshold for annual license renewals to 79. Read the full story at SCSun-News.com.

[http://www.scsun-news.com/silver\\_city-news/ci\\_27414363](http://www.scsun-news.com/silver_city-news/ci_27414363)

## **Cameras Already Showing Decline in Speeding (Saskatchewan)**

In December, a driver in Regina was recorded going 85 kilometres per hour in a school zone — 40 km/h faster than the posted speed limit. The provincial government is hoping such statistics become a thing of the past with the introduction of speed enforcement cameras. And According to SGI data from December and January, the first two months of the pilot project, things are headed in the right direction. Read the full story at LeaderPost.com.

<http://www.leaderpost.com/Cameras+already+showing+decline+speeding+Video/10821212/story.html>

## **2 Utah Lawmakers Present Dueling Distracted Driving Bills**

When it comes to the rules of the road, state lawmakers aren't sure of the best way to navigate what comes next. Two lawmakers, in particular, are headed in completely opposite directions. Rep. Jake Anderegg, R-Lehi, and Sen. Stephen Urquhart, R- St. George, are proposing dueling bills that focus on Utah's distracted driving law. Read the full story at Fox13Now.com.

<http://fox13now.com/2015/02/17/2-utah-lawmakers-present-dueling-distracted-driving-bills/>

## **Utah Senate Urges Congress to Permit Long, Heavy Trucks on Western Highways**

A Senate committee approved a resolution Thursday to again urge Congress to lift the ban on tractor-trailer trucks with multiple trailers in Utah and other Western states. Resolution sponsor Sen. Kevin Van Tassell, R-Vernal, said state lawmakers have been trying to lift the ban for years after the federal government froze the use of long, heavy trucks in the early '90s. Read the full article in Deseret News.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865622290/Utah-Senate-urges-Congress-to-permit-long-heavy-trucks-on-Western-highways.html>

## **Other News**

### **2014 One of Worst Years Ever for Vehicle Safety: NHTSA**

Carmakers recalled about 64 million vehicles in the U.S. last year, more than double the previous record set in 2004, according to official government data. The tally released Thursday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration closes the book on one of the worst years ever for automotive safety as

defective General Motors Co. ignition switches and exploding Takata Corp. air bags sent millions of drivers to dealerships in search of repairs. Read the full story at InsuranceJournal.com.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2015/02/13/357395.htm>

### **Federal Judge Blocks Obama's Executive Action On Immigration Until Lawsuit From 26 States Is Resolved**

A federal judge ruled that the executive action on immigration reform by U.S. President Barack Obama must be temporarily halted while a lawsuit against the president is dealt with. The federal government is expected to appeal the ruling. Judge Andrew Hanen of the U.S. District Court in Texas ruled on Monday that the president's executive action, which would protect millions of illegal immigrants from deportation, must be suspended until a lawsuit filed by 26 states, including Texas, which declares the plan unconstitutional, is resolved. Read the full story at IBTimes.com.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/federal-judge-blocks-obamas-executive-action-immigration-until-lawsuit-26-states-1818448>

### **Safety Groups Seek Alert Devices on Big Trucks**

Four highway safety groups have asked U.S. safety regulators to require tractor-trailers and big buses to have devices that alert drivers to stopped traffic and brake the trucks if drivers don't respond. The groups — Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, the Truck Safety Coalition, the Center for Auto Safety and Road Safe America — petitioned the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Thursday seeking the requirement for trucks weighing 10,000 pounds or more. They say the systems could prevent more than 2,500 crashes per year, but the agency hasn't required them. Read the full article in the Salt Lake Tribune.

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/2198183-155/safety-groups-seek-alert-devices-on>

### **Apple Working On 'Titan' Autonomous Car: Report**

Technology giant Apple is reportedly following in the wheel tracks of rival Google by developing an autonomous car. The Wall Street Journal quotes unnamed sources "familiar" with the project that kicked off late last year, known internally as 'Project Titan'. The model is reportedly based on a 'minivan', leading to speculation that a group of Chrysler Grand Voyagers seen moving around last year with numerous cameras on the roof were, in fact, Apple test vehicles. Read the full article in The Motor Report.

<http://www.themotorreport.com.au/60919/apple-working-on-titan-autonomous-car-report>

### **Volvo to Use Cloud Data for Autonomous Tech**

The race to be first with an autonomous car has taken to the sky. Swedish car maker Volvo plans to share information between cars over the internet via a data cloud, to help navigate around trouble spots. Volvo says it will soon be possible for one car to warn others nearby about road hazards, such as

an oil spill or a pot hole. Sensors in modern cars are now so sensitive they can accurately measure changes in road surfaces. Read the full article in CarsGuide.

<http://www.carsguide.com.au/car-news/volvo-to-use-cloud-data-for-autonomous-tech-31058#.VOdk6bEo6po>

## Did You Know

### 2015 IS THE YEAR OF THE GOAT (OR SHEEP)

- Chinese New Year is the longest national holiday in China, spanning a total of fifteen days, and New Year's Day is the most important date in the Chinese calendar.
- Based on the ancient Chinese lunar calendar, the new year falls on the second new moon after winter solstice - somewhere between January 21st and February 19<sup>th</sup> (so, it changes from year to year).
- 2015 is referred to as "The Year of the Goat" or the "Year of the Sheep." The confusion stems from the Chinese character "yang", which can translate in colloquial Chinese as either sheep or goat.
- Those born in 1919, 1931, 1943, 1967, 1979, 1991 or 2003 are goats.
- Lucky colors for Goats are brown, red and purple.
- They say that a person born in the year of the goat are kind and peaceable.
- Their best months are August and November.
- Their lucky flowers are primroses and carnations.

Learn more online:

- Whatever Floats Your Goat: The 2015 Lunar New Year Animal is Up For Debate (NPR)  
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2015/02/19/387203812/whatever-floats-your-goat-asian-languages-interpret-lunar-year-animal-different>
- Chinese New Year 2015: 6 things you need to know about the Year of the Goat (or Sheep) (The Independent) <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/chinese-new-year-2015-6-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-year-of-the-goat-or-sheep-10053014.html>
- Lunar new year 2015 – in numbers (The Guardian)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/18/chinese-new-year-2015-in-numbers>
- It's Chinese New Year: A financial astrologer predicts 2015 (Fortune)  
<http://fortune.com/2015/02/17/chinese-new-year-marketing/>