

# March 6, 2015 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

### AAMVA Members--Lend Us Your Expertise!

Serving on a committee is an ideal way to influence policy, develop best practices and network with your peers. AAMVA is looking for jurisdiction members to lend us their expertise by filling several vacancies on our three standing committees. Details on the vacant positions are available on AAMVA's Web site at <http://www.aamva.org/Committees-and-Working-Groups/#CommitteeOpportunities>. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please complete the Committee Member Application Form <http://www.aamva.org/uploadedFiles/MainSite/Content/MembersLeaders/CommitteesDisciplines/Committee-Working%20Group%20Application.doc>. **All applications must be received by May 4, 2015.** (If you have previously submitted an application, you do not need to reapply provided your information is up to date.) If you have questions, please contact Dianne Graham, director, Member & Conference Services via email [dgraham@aamva.org](mailto:dgraham@aamva.org) or phone (703) 908-8267.

### 2015 Workshop and Law Institute is Around the Corner



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. One look at the program

<http://www.aamva.org/EventsEducation/EventMaterials/2015/2015-Workshop-and-Law-Institute/2015-Workshop-and-Law-Institute-Program/>,

and you'll know this event is one that you won't want to miss. Register online today! <https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

## Region I

### Blumenthal Pushes for DMV to Warn You of Auto Recalls (Connecticut)

Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal today (Monday) introduced a bill that would require state DMVs to notify car owners of safety recalls. Blumenthal teamed with Massachusetts Democrat Ed Markey to sponsor the bill. It's called the RECALL Act, "Repairing Every Car to Avoid Lost Lives."

Blumenthal cited the record number of safety recalls in 2014 including faulty GM ignition switches and faulty airbags from the company Takata. Read the full story at WTNH.com.

<http://wtnh.com/2015/03/02/blumenthal-pushes-for-dmv-to-warn-you-of-auto-recalls/>

### **Connecticut Debates How To Regulate Ride-Hailing Services**

Connecticut is the latest state to grapple with how to regulate Uber and other ride-hailing services being embraced by the public but angering the long-established taxi and livery industry. Taxi and livery drivers say they're under assault by unfair competition from the likes of Uber Technologies, whose drivers use their own cars instead of renting them. Read the full story at BellinghamHerald.com.

[http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2015/03/02/4160965\\_uber-drivers-descend-on-capitol.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy](http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2015/03/02/4160965_uber-drivers-descend-on-capitol.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy)

### **Connecticut Safety Measures Lead To Dramatic Reduction In Truck Driver Fatalities**

Measures taken to improve the truck-driving industry in Connecticut are paying off. As WCBS 880's Connecticut Bureau Chief Fran Schneidau reported, the number of truck driver fatalities last year was 14, down from 30 in 2006. Read the full story at NewYork.CBSlocal.com.

<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/03/04/connecticut-safety-measures-lead-to-dramatic-reduction-in-truck-driver-fatalities/>

### **Maine Law would Ban Cellphones While Driving**

Maine lawmakers are again considering bills that would make it illegal to talk on a cellphone while driving. A bill sponsored by Rep. Anne-Marie Mastraccio, D-Sanford, would have Maine join 14 other states that ban the use of handheld mobile phones while driving. Another bill sponsored by Sen. Roger Katz, R-Augusta, would make Maine one of at least a dozen states that restrict the use of mobile phones to hands-free devices. Read the full story at PressHerald.com.

<http://www.pressherald.com/2015/02/27/maine-lawmakers-take-another-shot-at-strengthening-distracted-driving-law/>

### **New Bill Aims to Reduce Drunk Driving Accidents in Maryland**

Drunk driving victims, law enforcement officials and advocacy groups showed their support in Annapolis on Wednesday for a bill that would help reduce drunk driving accidents and deaths. The Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2015 would require ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher. Ignition interlocks are small devices that will check your breath for alcohol before your car can start. Read the full story at Your4State.com.

<http://www.your4state.com/story/d/story/new-bill-aims-to-reduce-drunk-driving-accidents-in/41607/rTja1SWfk0indL1vQd6q2Q>

### **Safety Advocates Want Harsher Penalties for New York's Drivers**

After Allison Liao, 3, was killed by a car in Queens, the man who was behind the wheel, Ahmad Abu-Zayedeh, was not charged. But last month, his driver's license was revoked by the state, after a long campaign by the girl's parents, Amy Tam-Liao and Hsi-Pei Liao. Read the full story at NYTimes.com.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/03/nyregion/safety-advocates-want-harsher-penalties-for-new-yorks-drivers.html? r=0>

### **New Campaign Reminds Drivers to be Aware of the Dangers of Drowsy Driving (New York)**

Stay awake and stay alive. That's the message from Governor Cuomo's office ahead of Daylight Savings Time, which begins this Sunday. A new campaign was launched Thursday, reminding drivers to be aware of the dangers of drowsy driving. As part of the effort, signs, telling drivers to stay awake, are being posted along the Thruway, Northway and other major roadways. Read the full story at WNYT.com.

<http://wnyt.com/article/stories/S3726146.shtml?cat=300>

### **Legislation Would Fine Pennsylvania Drivers Who Don't Clear Snow, Ice from Vehicles**

Don't feel like cleaning off the snow and ice from your car? That would end up in fine if one Pennsylvania senator gets her way. Sen. Lisa Boscola has reintroduced a bill that would require drivers to make "all reasonable efforts" to remove all ice or snow from their vehicles. Drivers would face fines of between \$25 and \$75 for not clearing off snow from their vehicles, including the roof, hood and trunk. Read the full story at PennLive.com.

[http://www.pennlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/02/remove\\_snow.html](http://www.pennlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/02/remove_snow.html)

### **Law Enforcement Technology on the Radar; If Passed, Bill Would Allow Police to Use Radar Guns (Pennsylvania)**

Municipal police in Pennsylvania cannot use radar guns to enforce speed limits. Sens. Randy Vulakovich and Richard Alloway II are among those who want to change that. Vulakovich, R-Allegheny County, has reintroduced legislation (Senate Bill 535) allowing "any police officer" to use radio-microwave devices, known as electronic speed meters or radar, for speed enforcement. Read the full story at PublicOpinionOnline.com.

[http://www.publicopiniononline.com/local/ci\\_27612376/law-enforcement-technology-radar](http://www.publicopiniononline.com/local/ci_27612376/law-enforcement-technology-radar)

### **PennDOT Issues Statement on Vendor Error in Select Driver License Products**

Deputy PennDOT Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services Kurt J. Myers issued the following statement on actions being taken as a result of a vendor error in some driver license products: "PennDOT learned late yesterday that laminate supplied by vendors for driver's licenses did not have the proper security image on the front of the license. The image is not visible without use of a black light device. . . " Read the PennDOT press release.

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdNews.nsf/8c5bc4e349ab4db6852576c800678468/5963aeb78e358c7885257df800736710?OpenDocument>

## Region II

### **ADOR Further Extends February Deadlines for Motor Vehicle Registration, Renewal, and Transfer, and Vehicle Property Tax Payment (Alabama)**

State Revenue Commissioner Julie P. Magee has announced that the February motor vehicle registration, renewal, transfer and vehicle property tax payment deadlines have been further extended through March 13 for all Alabama residents affected by county office closings due to severe weather conditions beginning Feb. 25 and again on March 5. Read the full pull release for more.

<http://revenue.alabama.gov/news/03062015.pdf>

### **GA Department of Driver Services (DDS) to Recruit at Fort Benning Transition Summit**

Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) will be participating in a two-day hiring fair and transition summit at Fort Benning on March 11-March 12th. Positions for driver examiners throughout the state are available. For more information, visit the Georgia DDS Web site (<http://www.dds.ga.gov>) or the March 5th information post on the DDS Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDDS?fref=nf>

### **Voters Have One Year To Get An North Carolina Photo ID**

About 218,000 North Carolina voters don't have government-issued photo identification. But they'll need one to vote at the polls in next year's presidential primary. Voters can choose from a number of official ID cards: A state-issued drivers license or learners permit, a U.S. passport or military ID, veterans ID, and certain cards for members of Native American tribes in North Carolina. Read the full story at WUNC.org.

<http://wunc.org/post/voters-have-one-year-get-nc-photo-id>

### **South Carolina DMV Urges Drivers to Add Emergency Contact to License**

If you're seriously hurt or killed in an accident, who would you want to be notified? It's an answer that the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles wants more people to think about. The DMV is urging drivers to update their emergency contacts online. By adding emergency contact information to your driver's licenses, law enforcement will know right away who to call. Read the full story at FoxCarolina.com.

[www.foxcarolina.com/story/28277070/sc-dmv-urges-drivers-to-add-emergency-contact-to-license#ixzz3TcGI69du](http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/28277070/sc-dmv-urges-drivers-to-add-emergency-contact-to-license#ixzz3TcGI69du)

### **TN Mislabels 3,500 Drivers' Licenses**

Some 3,500 Tennesseans who got new driver's licenses Feb. 17-19 at state driver service centers or online accidentally received licenses with "Not for Federal Identification" printed on them, the state said Monday. The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security said the snafu was "a printing error," and that it will mail "a new permanent card, without the misprint," to those people, by the end of the day Tuesday. Read the full story in the Columbia Herald.

<http://columbiadailyherald.com/news/state/tn-mislabels-3500-drivers-licenses>

### **"Two Steps, One Sticker" Program Begins Sunday, March 1 (Texas)**

Get ready for a new Texas Two Step. This weekend the state will transition to having just one sticker for vehicle inspection and registration, and vehicle owners will follow two steps to get their one sticker. Read the DMV press release.

[http://twostepsonesticker.com/press/2015-02-27\\_News\\_Release.pdf](http://twostepsonesticker.com/press/2015-02-27_News_Release.pdf)

### **Texas DPS Vendor Issues Thousands of Faulty Driver's Licenses**

Driver beware. You may be receiving a new license in the mail because your current one is no good. KXAN Investigator Brian Collister discovered a mistake made on hundreds of thousands of licenses is forcing the state to send out replacements. Read the full story at KXAN.com.

<http://kxan.com/2015/02/16/texas-dps-vendor-issues-thousands-of-faulty-drivers-licenses/>

## **Region III**

### **Johnson County Sees Increase in Fake Car Titles (Kansas)**

Citizens at the Johnson County Treasurer's Office look for help with their vehicle registration at Tuesday afternoon. Over the past three, the number of fraudulent titles coming through their office have drastically increased, according to Johnson County Treasurer Tom Kriz. Read the full story at Press-Citizen.com.

<http://www.press-citizen.com/story/news/local/2015/02/27/johnson-county-sees-increase-fake-car-titles/24143929/>

### **Legislation to Create 'Choose Life' License Plates Moves Out of Senate Panel (Michigan)**

Legislation to create license plates that will raise money for anti-abortion programs is moving forward in Lansing. A Michigan Senate panel approved a measure creating a "Choose Life" license plate. Read the full story at WWMT.com.

<http://www.wwmt.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/Legislation-to-create-39-Choose-Life-39-license-plates-moves-out-of-Senate-panel-99404.shtml#.VPm7MfldUeE>

### **New Michigan Law Creates Drunk Driving Headache**

Lawmakers call it a simple error that will soon be fixed, but changes in wording regarding field sobriety tests for impaired drivers have frustrated Michigan police and prosecutors. In some counties, the change in the state statute regarding field sobriety tests has led judges to kick sobriety test evidence out of court entirely, possibly letting some suspects to go free. Read the full story at Freep.com.

<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/03/03/michigan-law-sobriety-test/24308293/>

### **At Packed Legislative Hearing, Immigrants Urge State to Allow Them to Get Driver's Licenses (Nebraska)**

Her parents brought her from Mexico to Omaha when she was a little girl. A bill before the Nebraska Legislature brought her out from the shadows. Fatima Flores Lagunas, who had previously been wary of speaking publicly about her immigration status, told state senators at a public hearing Tuesday how she can study and work in the United States without fear of deportation, but she lives in the only state where she can't get a driver's license. Legislative Bill 623 would allow licenses or identification cards to be issued to young adults like her who qualify for the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Read the full story at StarHerald.com.

[http://www.starherald.com/news/regional\\_statewide/deferred-action-youths-ask-nebraska-for-driver-s-licenses/article\\_f36bf839-d08a-52c6-8b21-b4177aaf1a9a.html](http://www.starherald.com/news/regional_statewide/deferred-action-youths-ask-nebraska-for-driver-s-licenses/article_f36bf839-d08a-52c6-8b21-b4177aaf1a9a.html)

### **Ohio Scrap Metal Thieves Face New Hurdles When Trying to Sell Stolen Goods**

Pity the poor scrap metal thief. Well, OK, let's not. Still ... Not only are many scrap metal prices way down — steel sells for about half of what it was in early January — but also a new state law went into effect this month aimed at putting a serious crimp into thefts. (Ohio has had the dubious distinction of having the most scrap metal thefts in the nation, according to some reports.) As of Feb. 1, people must show identification at Ohio scrap yards and recycling centers and pass a criminal records check through a new "Do Not Buy" registry before selling any scrap items. Read the full story at Ohio.com.

<http://www.ohio.com/news/local/ohio-scrap-metal-thieves-face-new-hurdles-when-trying-to-sell-stolen-goods-1.570243>

### **Ohio State Highway Patrol Goes Digital to Save Troopers, Offenders Time**

The Ohio State Highway Patrol has a new tool, and unless you end up in the back of a cruiser, you may never actually get to see it. What started off as a pilot program in 2013 has now been implemented at each post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. While most of what happens during a traffic stop has stayed the same, those who drive away with a citation will now notice a big difference - no handwritten tickets. Within the last several months, the patrol has switched to computerized tickets statewide. The move has cut down on the time traffic stops can take, but has added weight to the haul in each cruiser. Read the full story at NBC24.com.

<http://www.nbc24.com/news/story.aspx?id=1170138#.VPCQmSjBCxg>

## **House Passes \$7 Billion Transportation Budget That Includes Credit-Card Options (Ohio)**

Ohio residents would be able to pay for a new driver's license, registration or plates with a credit or debit card under a two-year, \$7 billion transportation spending bill passed by the Ohio House of Representatives yesterday. Read the full story at Dispatch.com.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/03/03/state-transportation-budget.html>

## **Region IV**

### **ADOT ECD Continues Its Mission to Provide for a Safer Arizona Using Technology to Move Ahead in 2015 (Arizona)**

The Enforcement and Compliance Division of the Arizona Department of Transportation is more visibly known for its Enforcement Services, the unit that helps to ensure that commercial vehicles adhere to federal and state regulations. One of the primary goals is to improve Arizona's ability to move people, goods and services in a safe, efficient manner through the use of education, enforcement and technology. Read the DOT press release.

<http://azdot.gov/media/News>

### **Arizona Senate Okays Bill to Issue REAL ID Driver's Licenses**

The Senate has approved a bill allowing the Arizona Department of Transportation to issue driver's licenses that comply with the REAL ID Act. The Transportation Security Administration is set to stop accepting Arizona driver's licenses at airports in January 2016. Read the full story at ABC15.com.

<http://www.abc15.com/news/state/arizona-senate-okays-bill-to-issue-real-id-drivers-licenses>

### **Chief Data Officer Proposed for California**

State Sen. Richard Pan, D-Sacramento, is hoping to overhaul California's open data portal and create a new executive role to lead the effort. Legislation from Pan on Feb. 26 would task the governor with naming a chief data officer no later than Jan. 1, 2016, and require at least 150 data sets to be published on the statewide open data portal by 2017. Read the full story at TechWire.net.

<https://www.techwire.net/chief-data-officer-proposed-for-california/>

### **129,000 Undocumented Immigrants to Obtain Driver's Licenses (California)**

California government reported that 129,000 undocumented immigrants driver's licenses have achieved so far this year. Hundreds of thousands of migrants have nevertheless submitted at least written examinations for licenses, although all have not passed, according to the Department of Motor Services. Read the full story at Translate.Google.com.

<http://translate.google.com/translate?ie=UTF8&prev=t&tl=en&u=http://www.uniradioinforma.com/noticias/sandiego/327071/van-129-mil-indocumentados-que-obtienen-licencias-de-manejo.html&sandbox=0&usg=ALkJrhjma2bsPdZH-HKklnJXG1umZplwyg>

### **Drug, Criminal Background Tests for Uber and Lyft Sought (California)**

The drive to treat Uber and Lyft more like taxi companies has sparked another California bill requiring drivers to undergo drug and background tests. Read the full story at SacBee.com.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article12632915.html>

### **Anti-Tesla, Auto Dealer Protection Bill Hits the Idaho Capitol**

Members of a special committee introduced legislation Wednesday that would protect Idaho auto dealers from upstart competitors who want to sell cars directly to consumers. The bill, approved for further hearing by the House Ways and Means Committee, is the brainchild of the Idaho Automobile Dealers Association. It has the support of Rep. Kathy Sims, R-Coeur d'Alene, the Legislature's only auto dealer. Read the full story at IdahoReporter.com

<http://idahoreporter.com/idahon-anti-tesla/>

### **Idaho Panel Takes Up Guidelines for Driverless Cars**

Idaho citizens could soon be sharing the road with driverless cars. A Senate panel considered a bill Tuesday that would allow companies to test self-driving cars on Idaho highways. Read the full story at JRN.com.

<http://www.jrn.com/kivity/news/Idaho-panel-takes-up-guidelines-for-driverless-cars-295003031.html>

## **Other News**

### **Simple Maze Test May ID At-Risk Older Drivers**

A simple three-minute maze test may accurately identify drivers who are at greater risk for getting into serious car accidents due to cognitive impairments, according to a new study sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Read the full story at PsychCentral.com.

<http://psychcentral.com/news/2015/03/01/simple-maze-test-may-identify-at-risk-older-drivers/81751.html>

### **Uber, Lyft Make Moves to Benefit Drivers**

Transportation start-ups Uber and Lyft this week introduced initiatives to keep drivers happy and connected. Lyft rolled out a perks program called "Accelerate" for its drivers, a tiered initiative that gives rewards to drivers based on the number of rides, including support for filing taxes through Intuit, health



insurance options through eHealth and ways to save on vehicle purchases, gym memberships and more. Read the full story at CNBC.com.

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/102473420>

### **Regulators to Police: Issue More Tickets at Rail Crossings**

National railroad regulators are asking local police departments to issue more tickets to drivers who ignore warnings at crossings. The Federal Railroad Administration says it's the first step in a safety campaign. Read the full story at Tri-CityHerald.com.

[http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2015/03/03/3438034\\_regulators-to-police-issue-more.html?rh=1](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2015/03/03/3438034_regulators-to-police-issue-more.html?rh=1)

### **Dodge Warns Consumers to Beware of Its Own Dealers**

If you've left a deposit for a 2015 Dodge Challenger at your local Dodge dealer, than you may be waiting longer than expected. Dodge explains in a statement: "An isolated number of dealers have taken a far greater number of orders than they could reasonably expect to fulfill under the ... allocation system," CNN reports. Read the full story at JRN.com.

<http://www.jrn.com/kivity/now-trending/Dodge-claims-beware-of-its-own-dealers-294997631.html>

### **Self-Driving Cars Could Drive Billions in Internet Revenue**

In January, Nvidia started rolling out some tech that promises to bring the world closer to a future where auto-piloted cars that can see and detect the world around them are a reality. Now, McKinsey & Company is painting a picture of what that world may look like. Read the full story at TopTechNews.com.

[http://www.toptechnews.com/article/index.php?story\\_id=011000CDYZ40](http://www.toptechnews.com/article/index.php?story_id=011000CDYZ40)

## **Did You Know**

### **RAILROAD CROSSINGS**

- It takes the average freight train traveling at 55 mph more than a mile—the length of 18 football fields—to stop.
- The average locomotive weighs about 400,000 pounds or 200 tons; it can weigh up to 6,000 tons. This makes the weight ratio of a car to a train proportional to that of a soda can to a car.
- Trains have the right of way 100% of the time over emergency vehicles, cars, the police and pedestrians.
- There are 31 U.S.-Canada railroad crossings (if I counted correctly).
- In the U.S., there are over 209,308 railroad crossings, approximately 129,326 intersect with public roads (As of 7/29/14)

- Railroad crossings exist in all 49 continental states, with the leading five states being Texas, Illinois, California, Kansas and Ohio.
- In the U.S. there were 2,090 accidents resulting in 249 deaths and approximately 954 serious injuries (as of 7/29/14)
- There are approximately 37,000 public, private and pedestrian highway/railway crossings in Canada.
- In 2011, there were 169 crossing collisions across Canada, 25 fatalities and 21 serious injuries. There were also 67 trespasser incidents, including 46 fatalities and 21 serious injuries.
- The first U.S. patent given for a railroad crossing gate dates back to August 27, 1867, and was awarded to J. Nason and J. Wilson of Boston Massachusetts. At that time, crossing gates were hand-operated by means of a crank mechanism.
- By the early 20th century, the use of "crossbuck" signs (the boards forming an "X"), were very common. (The design formed the basic warning sign still in use today.)
- In the mid-1920s, sign makers began using road reflectors called Cataphote reflectors or "cats eyes" on crossbuck signs to make them more visible to drivers at night. Today, reflective sheeting is used to make street and railroad crossing signs.
- The first automatic crossing signals were bells mounted atop poles.
- The first alternating flashing red light signal was installed in New Jersey in 1913.
- The most common method for trains to activate a crossing signal is to use the fact that the train's wheels are made of steel, and these steel wheels are connected together with a solid steel axle. The train essentially becomes part of a giant switch, with the wheels/axles completing a circuit across the two rails. One rail carries voltage, one is ground, and the train completes the circuit between them. The completion of the circuit activates the signal.

Learn more online:

- List of Canada-United States Border Crossings (Wikipedia) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Canada%E2%80%93United\\_States\\_border\\_crossings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Canada%E2%80%93United_States_border_crossings)
- Safety Tips and Facts (Operation Lifesaver - Rail Safety Education) <http://oli.org/education-resources/saftey-tips/safety-tips-and-facts>
- Train Safety FAQ (Operation Lifesaver - A Partnership in Public-Rail Safety - Canada) <http://www.operationlifesaver.ca/facts-and-stats/train-safety-faq>
- How does a train make the railroad crossing signals operate? (Brainstuffshow.com) <http://www.brainstuffshow.com/blog/how-does-a-train-make-the-railroad-crossing-signals-operate/>
- Railroad Crossing Gates and Signals (WhippanyRailwayMuseum.net) <http://www.whippanyrailwaymuseum.net/exhibits/structures/railroad-crossing-gates-a-signals>