

March 13, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

eOdometer Disclosure Task Force Releases Final Report

To be in compliance with the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), NHTSA will be setting forth regulations to permit electronic odometer (e-odometer) disclosures. To that end, AAMVA's eOdometer Disclosure Task Force has drafted a report to capture considerations that should be taken when shifting from a paper process to an electronic process. Flexibility was a key factor in developing the report so that jurisdictions can implement an electronic process within budgetary constraints. The specific actions within the process and the importance of authenticating the disclosure were also taken into consideration. Download the **eOdometer Task Force Report**.

<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6327&libID=6301>

AAMVA Joins Transportation Safety Partners to Launch Toward Zero Deaths Initiative

AAMVA joined a collaboration of transportation safety partners in the launch of the National Strategy on Highway Safety Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) effort, a vision of eliminating fatalities on our nation's roads. "The TZD initiatives include recommendations that will make all road users safer including drivers, passengers, pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists," said Anne Ferro, AAMVA President & CEO. "Reaching zero deaths on our nation's roads will take dedication and collaboration by everyone who touches our transportation network." Read the AAMVA press release.

<http://www.aamva.org/uploadedFiles/MainSite/Content/NewsPublications/PressReleases/AAMVA-TZD%20Release%20March%202015.pdf>

2015 Workshop and Law Institute is Next Week



The 2015 Workshop and Law Institute

www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5924 is next week, 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

Tesla Clashes With Auto Dealers Over Direct-To-Driver Sales In Connecticut

On a stretch of highway not a half-hour from Fairfield County, just off the Saw Mill River Parkway, luxury auto dealerships fall in line, one after the other: BMW, Volvo, Lexus — and Tesla, the relatively new kid on an expensive block. Read the full story at MyInforms.com.

<http://myinforms.com/en-gb/a/11588380-tesla-clashes-with-auto-dealers-over-direct-to-driver-sales-in-connecticut/>

Charlie Baker Names Erin Deveney as new RMV boss

ov. Charlie Baker has tapped a new Registry of Motor Vehicles head in the latest shakeup at the state's department of transportation, the Boston Herald has learned. MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack appointed Erin Deveney to a one-year post as Interim Registrar of Motor Vehicles today. Read the full article in the Boston Herald.

http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2015/03/charlie_baker_names_erin_deveney_as_new_rmv_boss

New Ontario Birth Certificates Easier to Verify and Harder to Forge

Ontario birth certificates will now be more durable and secure, thanks to a new polymer material and innovative security features that make them difficult to counterfeit and easier to verify. Read the press release at News.Ontario.ca.

<http://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2015/03/new-ontario-birth-certificates-easier-to-verify-and-harder-to-forge.html>

Region II

State Senator Seeks to Overturn Cost Increase of Alabama Driver's License

The 54 percent increase in the cost of obtaining or renewing an Alabama's driver's license has caught the attention of a state senator. Sen. Bill Holtzclaw introduced a bill last week that would reverse that price hike that went into effect in February. Read the full story at AL.com.

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/03/state_senator_seeks_to_overtur.html

Bill Will Allow for Personalized Memorial License Plates (Alabama)

A bill from Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow, D-Red Bay, named in honor of a Wilson High School student, would allow for personalized license plates honoring deceased family members. The bill was the idea of Matt McKean, whose daughter, Cory, died in a car crash almost 11 years ago. She was 16. Wilson school is in the Lauderdale County district. Read the full story at TimesDaily.com.

http://www.timesdaily.com/news/local/bill-will-allow-for-personalized-memorial-license-plates/article_9f126ebd-bb64-5723-b613-7f14fc2af899.html

Proposed Legislation Would Put Drunk-Boating Convictions on Drivers' Records (Florida)

Come July 1, arrests for drunk boating might be interchangeable with arrests for drunk driving. State Sen. Thad Altman (R-Cape Canaveral) and Rep. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) filed companion bills this week that would treat convictions for boating under the influence as convictions for driving under the influence and vice versa. If the bills pass and are signed into law, BUIs would be reported to the state Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and show up on a driving record. Read the full story at Keysnet.com.

<http://www.keysnet.com/2015/03/07/501595/proposed-legislation-would-put.html>

Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles to Issue New Driver's License, ID Card Design

In the coming weeks, the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles will begin issuing new driver's licenses, identification cards and placards across the state. Citizens, however, are not required to get a new license or ID card until their current one expires. Read the full story at NOLA.com.

http://www.nola.com/news/baton-rouge/index.ssf/2015/03/louisiana_office_of_motor_vehi.html

Bills Could Crack Down On Repeat Drunk Drivers In North Carolina

State lawmakers are working on two bills that could make laws against repeat drunk drivers stricter. House Bill 32 focuses on a stricter definition of a habitual drunk driver. Read the full story at WFMMyNews2.com.

<http://www.wfmynews2.com/story/news/2015/03/11/habitual-drunk-driver-bills-north-carolina/70177940/>

MADD Endorses New Legislation that Would Put All Drunk Drivers Under a New "Lockdown" Law (Texas)

Mothers against Drunk Driving endorsed new legislation Tuesday that would put all drunk drivers under a new lockdown law. Ignition interlock devices are required, by state law, for repeat drunk drivers. Those who are caught with a blood alcohol content of .15 or more are also required to install the devices. HB 2246 would expand that requirement to first-time offenders. Dallas Republican Jason Villalba says his bill was drafted to be a hammer and a helping hand. Read the full story at MyFoxAustin.com.

<http://www.myfoxaustin.com/story/28358665/madd-endorses-new-legislation-that-would-put-all-drunk-drivers-under-a-new-lockdown-law>

DMV Handles 100,000 Birth Certificate Requests (Virginia)

In the first full year of a new partnership, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles offices handled more than 100,000 requests for birth certificates. The new program gives customers statewide a same-day service once available only in Richmond. Read the full story at Roanoke.com.

http://www.roanoke.com/news/virginia/dmv-handles-birth-certificate-requests/article_bbbf4152-ad07-507f-ac90-e814ca5be516.html

DMV: West Virginia Roadway Deaths Down 18%

Good news for drivers: roadway deaths are down 18 percent, according to statistics from the Division of Motor Vehicles. Officials said changes in driver behavior and awareness due to recent legislation may be key factors in this decrease from 2013 to 2014. Read the full story at Wboy.com.

<http://www.wboy.com/story/28397549/dmv-wv-roadway-deaths-down-18>

Region III

Distracted Drivers Could Get Prison Time for Fatal Crashes (Illinois)

Fatal crashes caused by illegal cellphone use should carry penalties similar to those imposed on drunk drivers who kill, a suburban lawmaker says. Read the full story at SaukValley.com.

<http://www.saukvalley.com/2015/03/08/distracted-drivers-could-get-prison-time-for-fatal-crashes/a1mumpe/>

New ISP Director Sworn In (Illinois)

Officer to Leo P. Schmitz became the new Director of the Illinois State Police (ISP) at a recent swearing in ceremony. Governor Bruce Rauner administered the oath at the Illinois Capitol Building in Springfield. Director Schmitz spent more than 28 years in law enforcement. He was unanimously confirmed by the Illinois legislature to lead the ISP. Read the full story at WMCAActionNews5.com.

<http://www.wmcaactionnews5.com/story/28257742/new-isp-director-sworn-in>

Low Conversion in Iowa for the REAL ID Program

Many licensed drivers in Iowa have not converted their identification to a version designed to help reduce identity theft and fraud. The Sioux City Journal reports two years after Iowa implemented the REAL ID program, only about 250,000 of Iowa's 2.1 million licensed drivers have switched to identification that may be needed in the future to enter some federal buildings or board a plane. Mark Lowe, the director of the Iowa Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Division, says he is not surprised by the low number, and that the department needs to continue its awareness campaign to increase conversion. Read the full story at MuscatineJournal.com.

http://muscatinejournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/low-conversion-in-iowa-for-the-real-id-program/article_0e844707-6e28-51e2-9641-442845a23e4e.html

Road is Long for Nebraska Organizations Working Toward Unique License Plates

Thirteen organizations in Nebraska have the state's OK to work toward creating their own unique license plates. That's as far as they've made it, though. After an organization is certified by the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles, 500 people must apply to preorder the plate and pay \$70 for it before production starts. Then it becomes a standard plate for Nebraska. Read the full story at Omaha.com.

http://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/road-is-long-for-nebraska-organizations-working-toward-unique-license/article_ac4eb91b-5bad-5b2a-8262-0fd2f8555358.html

Ricketts Names New State Patrol Head (Nebraska)

Bradley Rice of Elkhorn will serve as the next Nebraska State Patrol superintendent. He succeeds Col. David A. Sankey, who stepped down at the end of 2014. Read the full story at JournalStar.com.

http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/article_8a1e5235-3e4c-50ee-96e2-628d201ff0c7.html

Ohio Attorney General's Advisory Group Examines Quality of State's Police Training Academies

The quality of police training academies in Ohio and the need for stronger statewide training standards are among the issues an attorney general's committee is considering as it explores possible changes to the way Ohio prepares police officers. Read the full story at TheRepublic.com.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/a8e0397f32984aefb98a17610b8607d2/OH--Police-Relations-Ohio>

Renewing Driver's License Getting Easier (South Dakota)

South Dakotans will be happy to know that that gold star in the right-hand corner of a state driver's license simplifies the renewal process. According to the state Department of Public Safety, more than 98 percent of the state's 620,353 licensed drivers now carry a federally compliant driver's license, which is marked with the gold star. Read the full story at RapidCity Journal.com.

http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/renewing-driver-s-license-getting-easier/article_3b927e6b-7236-5ab0-a9d0-f3ca7fa0d78c.html

WisDOT's Motorists' Handbook now in eBook (Wisconsin)

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) announces that drivers now have the additional option to read and study the Motorists' Handbook as an eBook on their tablet device in English. The Motorists' Handbook explain the rules of the road and offers safe driving recommendations to help you safely operate a car or light truck (Class D license). Read the DOT press release.

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news

Region IV

Motorcycle Lane-Splitting Could Move Beyond California

Eric Kondo rides a motorcycle from his home in Alameda, across the congested Bay Bridge and into the city, every weekday morning for work. On a bad day, it takes him 25 minutes—about half the time it takes by car during rush hour. Read the full story at WSJ.com.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/motorcycle-lane-splitting-could-move-beyond-california-1425678764>

Immigrant Licenses Cause DMV Delays (California)

There's rarely a good time to wait in line at the Department of Motor Vehicles. But this winter has been among the worst. Two months after the state launched its first-ever program allowing unauthorized immigrants to apply for California driver licenses, wait times at DMV offices are still frustratingly-long for those wanting to renew licenses or take care of other business. Read the full story at UTSanDiego.com.

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/mar/10/dmv-driver-license-immigrant-california-wait-time/>

Signups by Undocumented Immigrant Drivers May Explain 30% Boost in Organ Donations (California)

More donors on the organ registry may be the unexpected result of undocumented immigrants getting California driver's licenses. Read the full story at FresnoBee.com.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2015/03/11/4421564/undocumented-immigrant-drivers.html#storylink=cpy>

Bill Would Allow ATVs to Travel on State Highways Within Cities (Idaho)

Phil Davis would like people riding on ATVs to stop crossing his property, and a bill pending in the Idaho Legislature would provide an answer. Davis, owner of Davis Cattle Co. north of Cascade, has a problem with riders of all-terrain vehicles coming off Vista Point Boulevard and crossing his land to reach Warm Lake Road and the back country. Read the full story at McAllStarNews.com.

http://www.mccallstarnews.com/pages/invalid_login.php?Access=Fail

Bill to Let Uber Sidestep Boise City Regulations Heads to Full House (Idaho)

A bill that would allow the popular ridesharing company Uber to bypass local city ordinances and operate how it wants in Idaho is headed to the House floor. The House Transportation and Defense Committee endorsed the proposal Tuesday, despite objections from the panel's three Democrats over safety and insurance policies. Read the full story at Spokesman.com.

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/boise/2015/mar/10/bill-let-uber-sidestep-boise-city-regulations-heads-full-house/>

DMV Looking for Ways to Improve Wait Times at Offices (Nevada)

Crowding and waiting at DMV offices in Southern Nevada is so bad that state leaders are reviewing, again, ways to improve the system. Department of Motor Vehicles told state legislators recently that tens of millions of dollars are needed to fix the long wait times. And the money to pay for it will come from you. A new fee likely will be tacked onto what you pay to DMV to renew a license, register a car or similar business. Read the full story at MyNews3.com.

<http://www.mynews3.com/content/news/local/story/DMV-looking-for-ways-to-improve-wait-times-at/UqOjYdaOcEuU9qQO2oU07Q.csp>

New Mexico House OKs Bill to Deny Driver's Licenses to Truant Pupils

The New Mexico House has approved a bill that would take away the driver's licenses of habitually truant eighth through 12th graders. Read the full story at NewsChanel10.com.

<http://www.newschannel10.com/story/28402238/nm-house-oks-bill-to-deny-drivers-licenses-to-truant-pupils>

Bill Could Undo Some Changes to Utah's Distracted Driving Laws

A bill that would roll back some of Utah's distracted driving law is advancing in the state legislature, with some new modifications. House Bill 63, sponsored by Rep. Jake Anderegg, is awaiting a Senate vote after a compromise was reached by the sponsor of the original distracted driving law, Sen. Steve Urquhart, R-St. George. Read the full story at Fox13Now.com

<http://fox13now.com/2015/03/08/lawmakers-reach-compromise-on-bill-that-could-undo-some-changes-to-utahs-distracted-driving-law/>

Washington Senate Votes to Ban Smartphone Use Behind the Wheel

The Washington Senate has voted to extend the state's ban on cellphone use while driving to cover the range of functions a smartphone can now serve — like using Twitter and Facebook. Read the full story at Union-Bulletin.com.

<http://union-bulletin.com/news/2015/mar/11/washington-senate-votes-ban-smartphone-use-behind-/>

Other News

Teamsters, Safety Groups Sue DOT Over Opening Border to Mexican Carriers

The Teamsters union and two highway safety advocate groups have filed suit against the U.S. Department of Transportation over DOT's recent decision to open the border to Mexican trucks. The suit was filed March 10 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which covers California and several other Western states. Read the full story at TTNews.com.

<http://www.ttnews.com/articles/basetemplate.aspx?storyid=37614&t=Teamsters-Safety-Groups-Sue-DOT-Over-Opening-Border-to-Mexican-Carriers>

Will Autonomous Cars Consume More Energy?

A recent study by the University of Michigan found that autonomous cars could ultimately lead to more fuel consumption than a conventional vehicle because they will allow for more travel. Michael Sivak and Brandon Schoettle of the Transportation Research Institute at the University of Michigan have been studying the phenomenon of autonomous vehicles for some time now. Having questioned the safety of self-driving vehicles, the two men are now wondering if autonomous cars would not lead to more energy consumption than conventional cars. Read the full article on AutoGo.ca.

<http://www.autogo.ca/en/news/industry-news/will-autonomous-cars-consume-more-energy>

Lyft Just Raised \$530 Million To Challenge Uber For Ride-Sharing Supremacy

The name Uber is virtually synonymous with ride-sharing, but that doesn't mean the company doesn't have fierce competition. Most notably, Lyft is creeping into new markets, reaching profitability in many of them—and, most importantly, raking in a ton of cash. Read the full article on FastCompany.com.

<http://www.fastcompany.com/3043635/lyft-just-raised-530-million-to-challenge-uber-for-ride-sharing-supremacy>

Trinity Up on Positive Federal Highway Administration Report

Shares of Dallas, TX-based guard rail manufacturer Trinity Industries Inc. (TRN - Snapshot Report) climbed 6.65% to \$31.77 on Mar 11, 2015, following a report issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in its favor. According to the report appearing in Bloomberg, the U.S. safety agency validated Trinity's stance and cleared it of charges which alleged that the company had tried to cover up the deficiencies in its roadway safety system by changing the design of its guardrails (to enhance their safety) without informing the FHWA. Read the full article on Zacks.com.

<http://www.zacks.com/stock/news/167512/trinity-up-on-positive-federal-highway-administration-report>

Did You Know

AVOID THE PINCH! WEAR GREEN FOR PADDY'S DAY ON TUESDAY

If you'll recall from school days of yore—wear green on St. Patrick's Day, or you'll be pinched for sure! St. Patrick's Day this year is on Tuesday, March 17th. Here are a few tidbits re-hashed from last year's "Did You Know" column that you might find interesting.

- St. Patrick's Day is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.
- St. Patrick wasn't Irish, and he wasn't born in Ireland. Patrick's parents were Roman citizens living in modern-day England, or more precisely in Scotland or Wales (scholars cannot agree on

which). He was born in 385 AD. By that time, most Romans were Christians and the Christian religion was spreading rapidly across Europe.

- St. Patrick's color is not green! Blue was the color originally associated with St. Patrick.
- Patrick was about sixteen years old when he was abducted and enslaved by Irish marauders, under their leader, Niall of the Nine Hostages
- The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the United States was held in Boston in 1737.
- There are 34.7 million U.S. residents with Irish ancestry. This number is more than seven times the population of Ireland itself.
- Across the country, 11 percent of residents lay claim to Irish ancestry. That number more than doubles to 23 percent in the state of Massachusetts.
- Your odds of finding a four-leaf clover are about 1 in 10,000.
- Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional St. Patrick's Day dish. In 2009, roughly 26.1 billion pounds of beef and 2.3 billion pounds of cabbage were produced in the United States.

Find more fun facts online at:

- St. Patrick's Day 2015: Fun Facts About Ireland's Patron Saint And The Irish Holiday (International Business Times) <http://www.ibtimes.com/st-patricks-day-2015-fun-facts-about-irelands-patron-saint-irish-holiday-1844356>
- St Patrick's Day 2015: Seven things you didn't know about the saint, the parades, and Guinness (Independent.co.uk) <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/st-patricks-day-2015-seven-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-saint-the-parades-and-guinness-10104053.html>
- St. Patrick's Day in the U.S. (TimeAndDate.com) <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/st-patrick-day>
- Who Was St. Patrick? Remember the Catholic Figure With More Than Just Green Beer (Huffington Post) http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/13/who-was-st-patrick_n_6866482.html
- St. Patrick's Day 2015: Fun Facts About Ireland's Patron Saint And The Irish Holiday (#fnews) <https://fnews.com/st-patricks-day-2015-fun-facts-about-irelands-patron-saint-and-the-irish-holiday-ft7e>