

March 27, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

AAMVA Opposes RECALL Act in Recent Position Statement

On March 25, 2015, AAMVA announced a policy position <http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6431&libID=6405> in opposition of the RECALL Act (S.617) <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/617/text>. The RECALL Act (introduced earlier this month) mandates state motor vehicle agencies notify owners of any outstanding vehicle safety recalls at the time of registration; requires owners to complete all safety recall work prior to registration renewal; and withholds federal highway funds from any state that fails to comply. AAMVA, who has been joined by the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA), is working with the bill's sponsors and will keep the membership apprised of its status.

View AAMVA's Position Statement in the March 25th Legislative Alert

<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6431&libID=6405>

2015 Workshop & Law Institute Presentations Available

AAMVA's 2015 Workshop & Law Institute in Fort Worth, Texas, sent members home armed with the information they need to help run an effective and efficient agency. Now we can all live (or relive) the event via the 2015 Workshop and Law Institute Downloads Center. Visit the page where you can view and download presentations, watch the wrap-up video, and browse through photo albums on Flickr. And don't forget to check out the Standing Committee Update videos that were presented at the Opening General Session. It's all right at your fingertips--visit the 2015 Workshop & Law Institute Downloads Center today! <http://www.aamva.org/2015-Workshop-and-Law-Institute-Download-Center/>

Region I

DeIDOT Announces New Director for the Division of Motor Vehicles

Delaware Department of Transportation Secretary Jennifer Cohan has named Scott Vien as the new Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles effective March 30, 2015. Mr. Vien has been with the State of Delaware in the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) since 2006. His DMV career began as a Management Analyst with the Commercial Driver License (CDL) program, then serving as the CDL Program Manager before becoming Chief of Driver Services in 2008. He has most recently served as the Deputy Director of DMV, a position he has held since 2013. Read the full press release on [DeIDOT.gov](http://www.deldot.gov).

<http://www.deldot.gov/home/newsroom/release.shtml?id=5476>

Maine Legislators Consider Taylor's Law for Teen Drivers

Proposed legislation to add new restrictions for teen drivers in Maine is scheduled for a public hearing Tuesday afternoon before the Legislature's Transportation Committee. The proposed legislation, called Taylor's Law, is sponsored by Sen. Kim Rosen. Read the full story at BantorDailyNews.com.

<https://bangordailynews.com/2015/03/24/politics/maine-legislators-consider-taylors-law-for-teen-drivers/>

Maryland's Toward Zero Deaths Campaign Paying Off

Maryland Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn, Acting State Police Superintendent William M. Pallozzi and Motor Vehicle Administrator and Governor's Highway Safety Representative Milt Chaffee announced March 24 that traffic deaths on Maryland roads during 2014 totaled 442, which was the lowest number since 1948. (The highest number of traffic fatalities in a single year was 872 in 1968.) Read the full story at OHSONline.com.

<http://ohsonline.com/Articles/2015/03/26/Toward-Zero-Deaths.aspx?admgarea=news&p=1>

Christie Rejects DWI Penalty Changes (New Jersey)

It took legislators more than a year to overhaul the state's drunken-driving penalties, doing away with lengthy license suspensions for many first-time offenders and requiring those drivers to install interlock devices that measure blood-alcohol levels. Read the full story at NorthJersey.com.

<http://www.northjersey.com/news/christie-rejects-dwi-penalty-changes-1.1294240>

Woman Admits Stealing \$90k from DMV (New York)

A Warsaw woman has admitted to stealing more than \$90,000 from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. Roxanne Ingles, 60, pleaded guilty to grand larceny, public corruption and tampering with public records charges this week. Read the full story at 13WHAM.com.

<http://www.13wham.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/woman-admits-stealing-90k-dmv-21254.shtml>

Judge Rules Against Uber in Court Battle (Ontario)

An Ontario court has quashed a bid from ride-sharing app Uber to keep details of its "highly confidential" insurance policy secret. In the legal battle between Uber and the City of Toronto, a key issue has been whether the Silicon Valley-based company provides adequate insurance to protect its users. Read the full story at TheGlobeandMail.com.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/judge-sides-with-toronto-in-battle-against-uber-over-policy-disclosure/article23571674/>

Region II

State Passes Bill To Help Prevent Drunk Driving (Kentucky)

The state legislature is also taking action to combat drunk driving. It's a bill that lawmakers have attempted to pass for years and last night the final version cleared the house and senate. A Bowling Green woman whose nephew was killed by a drunk driver says her family has fought for the passing of this bill for years. Read the full story at KBKO.com.

<http://www.wbko.com/home/headlines/State-Passes-Bill-To-Help-Prevent-Drunk-Driving-297595181.html>

OKC Man Denied License Plate Supporting LGBT Community (Oklahoma)

An Oklahoma City man is fighting back after the state denied his request for a customized license plate. The message of the plate: support the LGBT community. He filed a request for vanity plate: "LGBTALY" (plates can be a maximum of seven letters). His request was denied. Read the full story at KOCO.com.

<http://www.koco.com/news/okc-man-denied-license-plate-supporting-lgbt-community/31973762>

South Carolina DMV and Taiwan Sign Driver's License Reciprocity Agreement

The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Taiwan announced today a driver's license reciprocity agreement. DMV Executive Director Kevin Shwedo and the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Steven Tai signed a Memorandum of Agreement today at the SCDMV Headquarters in Blythewood. Read the DMV press release.

http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/default.aspx?n=news_release

State DMV Adds Online Services to Reduce Wait Times (Tennessee)

One of the hallmarks of a trip to the DMV — long wait times — could go the way of the dodo in Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security announced a new statewide driver's license system Thursday that will "increase efficiency at state driver's license centers." It's the first major upgrade to the state's driver service system in 30 years. Read the full story at Tennessean.com.

<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/2015/03/20/state-dmv-adds-online-services-reduce-wait-times/25087075/>

Lawmakers Propose a Drastic Way of Punishing Drunk Drivers Who Can't Stop Boozing Behind the Wheel (Tennessee)

The Tennessee State legislature has introduced a bill that would ban alcohol sales for at least ten years to anyone who has been convicted of three DUIs. Read the full story at IJReview.com.

<http://www.ijreview.com/2015/03/279863-stop-multiple-dui-offenders-driving-drunk-tennessee-lawmakers-innovative-idea/>

Supreme Court Appears Reluctant to Force Texas to Issue Confederate License Plates

Motorists have the right to put their favorite bumper sticker on their car, but do they have a free-speech right to a special state license plate with a Confederate battle flag or a message about abortion? That was the question before the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday in a case from Texas. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-supreme-court-confederate-license-plates-20150323-story.html>

Region III

Nearly 30,000 Vehicle Owners Take Advantage of Province's Winter Tire Low-Interest Financing Program (Manitoba)

With an eye towards road safety, nearly 30,000 Manitobans have signed up for the province's new winter tire low-interest financing program, Justice Minister James Allum and Manitoba Public Insurance announced today. Read the MPI press release.

<http://www.mpi.mb.ca/en/Newsroom/News-Releases/Pages/nr2015march20.aspx>

Legislation Proposes Gross Misdemeanor Careless Driving Charge (Minnesota)

A broad coalition of advocacy groups, victims and family members recently announced support of legislation that will allow for an enhanced penalty of the misdemeanor careless driving statute. The focus of the legislation will be to provide prosecutors with another tool by creating an intermediate charge of a gross misdemeanor. Read the full story at SouthernMinn.com.

http://www.southernminn.com/faribault_daily_news/news/local/article_138f1295-cacf-586d-9de4-398f7ef33747.html

Voter Suppression Likely Result of Auto Registration Provision in Transportation Budget, Legislator Says (Ohio)

A Democratic state representative and advocate for voting rights says a last-minute addition to the state transportation budget would effectively suppress voting by students at Ohio's colleges and universities. Read the full story at Cleveland.com.

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/03/voter_suppression_likely_resul.html

Wisconsin Trooper Killed in Shootout was New Academy Grad

A Wisconsin State Patrol trooper just three months out of the academy died in a shootout with a bank robbery suspect also believed to have killed another motorist. The robbery suspect also died in the shooting Tuesday evening in Fond du Lac, in eastern Wisconsin. Read the full story at MSN.com.

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/police-wisconsin-state-trooper-shot-and-killed/ar-AA9Xx9x?ocid=ansnewsap11>

U.S. Supreme Court Lets Wisconsin's Voter ID Law Stand

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejected a challenge to Wisconsin's voter identification law, restoring the measure it had dramatically blocked ahead of last November's election but not in time for the April 7 ballot. Read the full story at Governing.com.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/elections/tns-wisconsin-voter-id-court-ruling.html>

Region IV

Uber Faces More California Labor Claims

Following news of a California labor lawsuit filed against Uber for allegedly misclassifying its workers as independent contractors comes news of another lawsuit against the company alleging violations of California labor law. This new lawsuit, however, does not deal with employee pay or classification. Instead it alleges violations of California state labor laws requiring companies to properly protect employee information. Read the full story at LawyersandSettlements.com.

http://www.lawyersandsettlements.com/articles/california_labor_law/california-labor-law-lawsuit-122-20531.html#.VRGTqKNAZ8E

DMV Clashes with DOJ Over Photo Sharing Request (California)

The California Department of Motor Vehicles is clashing with the state's Department of Justice over the sharing of driver license photos with a national database, as well as the DOJ's push to combine driver data with facial recognition software. Read the full story at SkskiYouDaily.com.

<http://www.siskiyoudaily.com/article/20150325/NEWS/150329843>

DUI Lockout Bill Hits Snag (California)

A statewide proposal aimed at forcing convicted drunk drivers to install vehicle ignition-attached breathalyzers hit a bump in the road Tuesday as state Sen. Jerry Hill agreed to wait until the Department of Motor Vehicles releases a comprehensive report on a four-year pilot program aimed at reducing recidivism. Read the full story at SMDailyJournal.com.

<http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/news/2015-03-26/dui-lockout-bill-hits-snag/1776425140635.html>

Illegal Immigration 2015: Colorado Considers Funding For Immigrant Driver's License Program

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper is set to consider a bill that would give more funding to a program that allows immigrants to get driver's licenses no matter their legal status. The Associated Press reported Monday that the state Senate and House passed the compromise, bipartisan deal, and it's now on Hickenlooper's desk. The governor is expected to approve it. Read the full story at IBTimes.com.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/illegal-immigration-2015-colorado-considers-funding-immigrant-drivers-license-program-1857096>

House Narrowly Backs Change in Sales Tax Collections on Vehicle Sales to Out-of-State Purchasers (Idaho)

The House has voted 39-31 in favor of HB 252a, legislation from Rep. Lynn Luker, R-Boise, to change how Idaho treats sales taxes on sales of vehicles to out-of-state purchasers, collect up-front the portion of the tax that's higher than what the purchaser would pay at home, and divert half of the collections to the state highway fund. Rep. Kathy Sims, a car dealer - she noted that fact for the record - urged the House to reject the measure. Read the full story at Spokesman.com.

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/boise/2015/mar/20/house-narrowly-backs-change-sales-tax-collections-vehicle-sales-out-state-purchasers/>

Secretary of State Says Oregon's New Motor Voter Law Makes Sense for California

As California struggles to address historic low voter turnout, new Secretary of State Alex Padilla sees promise in a new Motor Voter law signed into law last week by Oregon Governor Kate Brown. Read the full story at GoldRushCam.com.

<http://goldrushcam.com/sierrasuntimes/index.php/news/local-news/2701-california-secretary-of-state-says-oregon-s-new-motor-voter-law-makes-sense-for-california>

State Oks Bill Strengthening Seatbelt Laws (Utah)

Utah's Republican governor has signed a bill that that would allow police to pull over drivers for not wearing seatbelts. The measure signed by Gov. Gary Herbert on Monday makes it a primary offense for drivers older than 19 to not buckle up. Read the full story at LocalNews8.com.

<http://www.localnews8.com/news/utah-oks-bill-strengthening-seatbelt-laws/31983502>

Environmentally Friendly Law Enforcement? WSP Using Hydrogen Fuel Cells at Radio Sites (Washington)

"Environmentally friendly" usually isn't the first thing that comes to mind when you think of law enforcement. The Washington State Patrol is changing that. WSP's Electronic Services Division has replaced traditional lead-acid batteries with hydrogen fuel cells at 15 of the agency's network radio

towers across the state. With initially the same startup cost as lead-acid batteries, fuel cells provide WSP with all the same benefits while helping to preserve the environment. Read the WSP press release.

<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/>

New Distracted Driving Bill Means No Touching of Phones (Washington)

The day may soon come when just touching your cell phone while driving will get you a ticket. A bill (SB 5656) toughening the distractive driving law has passed the state Senate, and just received a hearing in the state House. Read the full story at KOMONews.com.

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/New-distracted-driving-bill-means-no-touching-of-phones-297599761.html>

Other News

11 Ways Good Drivers Lose Their Licenses

Bad drivers probably shouldn't be on the road. On this point, people agree. Lawmakers, though, have added their own logic. They think many good drivers shouldn't be on the road either, like those who litter or fail to vaccinate the dog. Dozens of no-no's unrelated to highway safety can get your license yanked. "It's evolved into something that is used to gain social conformance," says Rob Mikell, a former prosecutor and now commissioner of the Georgia Department of Driver Services. "But at some point it began to overwhelm the system." The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) estimates that about 7 percent of U.S. drivers have a suspended license at any given time. Of those 15 million drivers, 39 percent lost their licenses for reasons that had nothing to do with driving. Read the full article on www.thestreet.com.

<http://www.thestreet.com/story/13090485/1/11-ways-good-drivers-lose-their-licenses.html>

GM to Launch Teen Driver System on '16 Chevy Malibu

General Motors Co. Friday said it will debut a new Teen Driver system on its redesigned 2016 Chevrolet Malibu that mutes the radio when front seat passengers haven't buckled up and give parents a report card of their teen's trip. Teens also will get an audible and visual warning if a vehicle travels over pre-set speeds (between 40 and 75 miles per hour) by Mom and Dad. Radio volume can be set to a lower level that can't be exceeded. Read the full story at DetroitNews.com.

<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/autos/general-motors/2015/03/20/chevy-malibu-teen-driver-system/25069857/>

Canada, U.S. Sign New Border Agreement to Speed Crossings

Travel to the United States by road, rail and sea could undergo a major revamp as the result of a new agreement between Canada and the U.S. Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney and Homeland Security

Secretary Jeh Johnson have signed a customs pre-clearance agreement that was years in the making. Read the full article on globalnews.ca.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1884441/canada-and-u-s-to-announce-new-cross-border-deal-today/>

Minister Raitt Announces Support for Mandating ELDs and ESC in Canada

After a roundtable meeting with the Canadian Trucking Alliance carrier members earlier today, Federal Transport Minister, Lisa Raitt announced she was personally supporting both electronic logging devices (ELDs) and electronic stability control systems (ESC) in order to improve safety for everyone on the road. Read the full article on www.trucknews.com.

<http://www.trucknews.com/transportation/minister-raitt-voices-support-on-mandating-elds-and-esc-in-canada/1003064504/>

Did You Know

TO PRANK OR BE PRANKED...A CELEBRATION FOCUSED PURELY ON SHENANIGANS AND MISCHIEF

There is a day which occurs once a year that some look forward to with trepidation, while others anticipate and plan for years in advance. That day is April Fool's Day which falls on the 1st of April every year and is celebrated by millions around the world.

If there is a celebration that is observed by millions around the world, then perhaps it's worth brushing up on what the day really is all about.

- Some historians believe the April Fools' customs began in France, although no one knows for sure.
- It may stem from a calendar change in 16th century France -- the moving of New Year's Day from April 1 to January 1 when the Gregorian calendar was adopted. People who continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April 1st rather than the new date of January 1st were referred to as "April fools" and others played tricks on them.
- Others say that the occasion evolved from festivals of spring renewal when people hid their identities.
- It used to be that pranks had to be completed in the morning in most English-speaking countries. Pranks later in the day were frowned upon, but that custom seems to have gone by the wayside and the whole day of April 1 is considered fair game for joking.
- In Scotland, the event lasts two days. April 1 is Hunt-the-Gowk Day ("gowk" means "cuckoo"), and April 2 is Taily Day. Tricks are played both days, with the latter focusing on pranks aimed at people's bums, or bottoms. This is said to be where the "Kick Me" sign originated.
- In New York City, fake press releases about an April Fools' Day Parade has been issued every year since 1986. Other cool pranks: In 1996, Taco Bell Corp. duped consumers by running a full-page ad in major newspapers claiming that it had purchased the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and will be renaming it the "Taco Liberty Bell."

- In 1957, the BBC reported about "spaghetti crops" in Switzerland and many requested information on growing their own spaghetti trees, completely oblivious to the fact that it was an April Fools Joke
- Google is a big celebrator of the holiday, and in 2013 it unveiled Google Nose, a prank it called "the next *scentsasion* in search" because one could search aromas and sniff them, through his/her computer.

Learn more about April Fool's Day:

- April Fool's Day Fast Facts (CNN) <http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/16/world/april-fools-day-fast-facts/>
- No kidding: April Fools' Day trivia, fun facts and famous pranks <http://www.chicagonow.com/tween-us/2014/03/april-fools-day-trivia/>
- Twenty Interesting Things About April Fool's Day (Pioneer Woman) <http://thepioneerwoman.com/homeschooling/2014/03/twenty-interesting-things-about-april-fools-day/>
- April Fools Day 2015 Fast Facts (Feast2015.com) <http://feast2015.com/tag/april-fools-day-fast-facts>