

# April 3, 2015 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

### **Legislative & Regulatory Resources Regarding Transportation Network Companies**

On March 31st, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) adopted a white paper on insurance coverage issues for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) such as Uber, Sidecar and Lyft. Their paper outlines insurance considerations to guide state and local policy-makers when adopting laws or regulations regarding transportation network companies and how best to address insurance coverage gaps associated with TNCs. Read the full AAMVA Legislative Alert.

<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6481&libID=6455>

### **Join Us in Park City, Utah, for Region IV Conference: Register Online Today**

The 2015 Region IV Conference will be held in Park City, Utah this year, June 1-4. Register online and prepare to take advantage of the opportunity to discuss today's relevant motor vehicle and law enforcement related issues. Jurisdictional attendees can learn about the successes and challenges of others, share ideas, build relationships, and discover the many products and services provided by our industry partners. Visit the Conference Web site at <http://www.aamva.org/2015-Region-IV-Conference-Home/> for more information, and register online today at <https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

### **Registration Now Open for Region II Conference: Hope to See You in Montgomery!**

Registration for the 2015 Region II conference is now available. The conference will be held at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center in Montgomery, Alabama, June 21-24. Planning details can be found on the website and our hosts in Alabama, along with Session Leads from throughout Region II, have put together an excellent program with an agenda that will cover a wide range of topics. Take advantage of opportunities to network with your peers, share challenges and opportunities, and to learn how industry solutions can help you address your challenges. Visit the site at <http://www.aamva.org/2015-Region-II-Conference-Home/> for more information and register online at <https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>. Still have questions? Contact Patrice Aasmo at [paasmo@aamva.org](mailto:paasmo@aamva.org) or 571-435-2861.

## Region I

### **Maryland Allows Confederate License Plates, But Blocks Other Messages**

Arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court last week over whether Texas can refuse to issue license plates bearing the Confederate battle flag to the group Sons of Confederate Veterans should sound familiar. In the late 1990s, the same group prevailed in a similar lawsuit against Maryland, winning the right to have the Confederate flag — part of its logo — on Maryland plates under the state's program for nonprofit group tags. Read the full story at BaltimoreSun.com.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-sun-investigates-mva-plates-20150328-story.html>

### **Massachusetts House Eyes Action on Distracted Driving**

Several recently filed House bills aimed at requiring drivers to use hands-free cellphone technology is turning up the buzz around distracted driving on Beacon Hill. Read the full story at MilfordDailyNews.com.

<http://www.milforddailynews.com/article/20150403/NEWS/150408528/1994/NEWS>

### **Veteran Designation on Pennsylvania Driver's Licenses Loosely Audited**

The telephone operator told Ben Keen he would not need his military discharge papers to obtain the new veteran's designation on his driver's license. To be cautious, Keen brought them Downtown to the driver's services center. The proof was still deemed unnecessary. Read the full story at TimesLeader.com.

<http://www.timesleader.com/news/local-news-news/152628866/Veteran-designation-on-Pa.-drivers-licenses-loosely-audited>

### **PennDOT Facial Recognition Software Reveals Man's Two Identities**

A Lancaster City man's attempt to renew his driver's license leads to his arrest for Identity Theft. 70 year old Luicio Reyes-Navarro went to PennDOT's office at Regency Square in East Hempfield Township to renewal his driver's license. PennDOT facial recognition software found that he had two driver's licenses containing the same name and date of birth, but different social security numbers. Read the full story at Fox43.com.

<http://fox43.com/2015/04/02/penndot-facial-recognition-software-reveals-mans-two-identities/>

## **Region II**

### **New Moffitt Cancer Center Specialty License Plate Released (Florida)**

The newest specialty license tag is going on sale across the state this week. The new Moffitt Cancer Center plate is designed to support research and clinical trials at the Tampa-based Moffitt Cancer Center. The plate costs \$25 in addition to the normal state registration fees. Read the press release at FLHSMV.gov.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/2015/03/31/new-moffitt-cancer-center-specialty-license-plate-released/>

### **New and Redesigned Military License Plates Available to Public (Florida)**

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles announces the release of a new military license plate, along with the redesign of nine other plates in the state's military license plate collection. The new Combat Medical Badge tag is going on sale this week. The tag honors those who served in medical units of the U.S. Army. Read the DHSMV press release.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/2015/03/31/new-and-redesigned-military-license-plates-available-to-public/>

### **Driver Services Commissioner Launches Newest Online Service (Georgia)**

Today Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell announced a new Online Service designed to simplify and accelerate the process for customers applying for a Limo Chauffeur Endorsement. Customers will now complete and submit the application and supporting documentation via the DDS' secure website: [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov). Benefits of this new service will be the reduction of incomplete applications, elimination of postage, notary and money order fees and a faster processing time -- saving customers and DDS time and money. Visit Georgia DDS online for more information.

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

### **New Signs Aimed At Helping With Safety On Highway Curves (Kentucky)**

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is installing some new signs in northeastern Kentucky on highways that have a history of crashes in areas with curves. The safety project is underway in Rowan, Lewis, Carter, Greenup and Boyd counties. It will involve installation of signs along seven roads. The cabinet says the signs include highly reflective chevrons marking the direction of curves as well as suggested speed limit signs. The cabinet says studies have shown that so-called "horizontal alignment signing" can reduce crashes by 30 to 45 percent. Read more on Kentucky.com.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2015/04/03/3782376/new-signs-aimed-at-helping-with.html#storylink=cpy>

### **House, Senate Give Preliminary OK to North Carolina Gas Tax Deal**

Gasoline taxes in North Carolina appear headed downward by a little bit very soon as the General Assembly voted Monday night for a compromise plan that avoids a sharp drop this summer that bill supporters said would wreck future road-building plans. Read the full story at WSOCTV.com.

<http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/news/house-senate-give-preliminary-ok-nc-gas-tax-deal/nkiH5/>

### **Overbey's Killing-While-Drunk-Driving Bill Passes Committee (Tennessee)**

Those convicted of vehicular homicide while intoxicated would not be eligible for probation under legislation sponsored by Sen. Doug Overbey and approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. Read the full story at TheDailyTimes.com.

[http://www.thedailytimes.com/news/overbey-s-killing-while-drunk-driving-bill-passes-committee/article\\_5e2e7240-52b5-55b1-adf9-647c0ba5cc32.html](http://www.thedailytimes.com/news/overbey-s-killing-while-drunk-driving-bill-passes-committee/article_5e2e7240-52b5-55b1-adf9-647c0ba5cc32.html)

### **West Virginia to Soon Offer License Plates with Phrase "In God We Trust"**

West Virginia soon will begin offering specialty license plates bearing the phrase "In God We Trust." Media outlets report that a Randolph County nonprofit collected the required minimum of 250 applications and fees before a May 1 deadline. Read the full story at WSAZ.com.

<http://www.wsaz.com/home/headlines/WVa-to-Soon-Offer-License-Plates-with-Phrase-In-God-We-Trust-297935721.html>

## **Region III**

### **Alcohol Tax Tied to Fewer Fatal Car Crashes (Illinois)**

When Illinois increased taxes on beer, wine, and spirits in 2009, there was a 26 percent reduction in alcohol-related fatal car crashes, say researchers from the University of Florida, with the greatest reduction being among young people. Deaths in that group fell by 37 percent. Read the full story at HealthCentral.com.

<http://www.healthcentral.com/dailydose/cf/2015/04/1/alcohol-tax-tied-to-fewer-fatal-car-crashes>

### **Research Group Urges the State to Raise Teen Driving Age (Iowa)**

A traffic safety research group is urging the state to toughen its rules regarding teen driver's licenses. Currently, Iowa teenagers are eligible to get a driver's license when they turn 16 years old, but the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety says the age should be raised to 17. The organization also says the permit age should also rise, and that Iowa should do away with school driving permits. Read the full story at KCCI.com.

<http://www.kcci.com/news/research-group-urges-the-state-to-raise-teen-driving-age/32117286>

### **Driving Without Insurance? Police in Michigan Can Now Tell Just By Running Your Plate**

Police now have an easier way of telling if you are riding dirty on the streets of Michigan. As of mid-September, police throughout the state can determine if a motor vehicle is properly insured simply by running its license plate. Read the full article on MLive.com.

[http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2015/03/driving\\_without\\_insurance\\_poli.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2015/03/driving_without_insurance_poli.html)

### **State Police Giving Away High-Visibility Motorcycle Vests (Michigan)**

State police are giving out specially designed high-visibility vests to motorcyclists who complete a rider training class this year. The state says it's part of a pilot project to increase the number of motorcyclists

using high-visibility clothing or gear. Money comes from a federal grant. Read the full story at NewsOK.com.

<http://newsok.com/state-police-giving-away-high-visibility-motorcycle-vests/article/feed/819656>

### **State Tees Up Specialty 'Play Golf Minnesota' License Plates for Sale this Summer**

Minnesota golfers will soon have a new way to reflect their seasonal passion year-round: By slapping a special golf-themed license plate on their cars. Read the full story at StarTribune.com.

<http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/298335331.html>

### **Gas Tax Hike Passes First Round Approval (Nebraska)**

Nebraska's gas tax moved closer to rising 6 cents on Wednesday, and state lawmakers who support the increase lurched toward a showdown with Gov. Pete Ricketts. Read the full story at BeatriceDailySun.com.

[http://beatricedailysun.com/news/state-and-regional/gas-tax-hike-passes-first-round-approval/article\\_34e02a1a-2398-5d8a-8a76-530949962eac.html](http://beatricedailysun.com/news/state-and-regional/gas-tax-hike-passes-first-round-approval/article_34e02a1a-2398-5d8a-8a76-530949962eac.html)

### **State Highway Patrol Tries to Increase Female Recruits (Ohio)**

The Ohio State Highway Patrol is kicking off its spring recruitment in April and they are looking for more women. Currently OSP has 1600 troopers, but only 137 are women. So on April 14th at the academy, near the Ohio State Fairgrounds, they will offer a special seminar for women. Read the full story at MyFox28Columbus.com

<http://www.myfox28columbus.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/State-Highway-Patrol-Tries-to-Increase-Female-Recruits-109063.shtml#.VR1mmth0yUI>

## **Region IV**

### **Legislature OKs Voluntary REAL ID Driver's Licenses (Arizona)**

The Arizona Legislature has sent a bill to Gov. Doug Ducey allowing the Arizona Department of Transportation to issue driver's licenses that comply with the federal REAL ID Act. Read the full story at AZDailySun.com.

[http://azdailysun.com/news/state-and-regional/legislature-oks-voluntary-real-id-driver-s-licenses/article\\_9fe88851-fadb-56dc-8f3e-2f8cad6de315.html](http://azdailysun.com/news/state-and-regional/legislature-oks-voluntary-real-id-driver-s-licenses/article_9fe88851-fadb-56dc-8f3e-2f8cad6de315.html)

### **ICBC Launches Speaker Tour Across British Columbia to Keep Youth Safe**

On average, six youth are killed and 1,660 injured in crashes during graduation season from April to June in B.C. every year. That's why ICBC road safety speakers are travelling across the province to share their

personal, heartbreaking stories with high school students to help them realize the life-changing consequences of taking risks behind the wheel. Read the ICBC press release.

<http://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/newsroom/Pages/2015Mar31.aspx>

### **More Than 200,000 Immigrants Took License in California**

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) revealed that have delivered over 200,000 drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants in California in nearly three months. Read the full story at Translate.Google.com.

[http://translate.google.com/translate?js=n&prev=\\_t&ie=UTF-8&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fnoticias.univision.com%2Farticle%2F2292263%2F2015-04-03%2Finmigracion%2Fnoticias%2Fmas-de-200-mil-inmigrantes-sacaron-licencia-en-california](http://translate.google.com/translate?js=n&prev=_t&ie=UTF-8&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fnoticias.univision.com%2Farticle%2F2292263%2F2015-04-03%2Finmigracion%2Fnoticias%2Fmas-de-200-mil-inmigrantes-sacaron-licencia-en-california)

### **Former DMV Investigator Pleads Not Guilty to Forging Officer's Signature to Get Out of Traffic Ticket (California)**

A former investigator for the California Department of Motor Vehicles pleaded not guilty Thursday to forging a police officer's signature to avoid paying a traffic ticket. Read the full story at ORegister.com.

<http://www.oregister.com/articles/svet-656550-dmv-officer.html>

### **Idaho House Passes Bill That Raises Gas tax, Removes Grocery Tax, Flattens Income Tax**

A debate on trickle-down economics turned into a flood of support Monday for legislation that reshapes Idaho's income and sales tax structure. The bill, which was introduced last week, includes a 7-cent fuel tax increase, eliminates the sales tax on groceries and flattens individual income tax rates. It passed the House on a 53-17 vote. Read the full story at LM Tribune.com.

[http://lmtribune.com/northwest/idaho-house-passes-bill-that-raises-gas-tax-removes-grocery/article\\_0ace30d7-b98f-55be-8708-f097e7311952.html](http://lmtribune.com/northwest/idaho-house-passes-bill-that-raises-gas-tax-removes-grocery/article_0ace30d7-b98f-55be-8708-f097e7311952.html)

### **Idaho Driver's Licenses Get REAL ID Extension**

Idaho driver's licenses and identification cards will be accepted for official federal purposes following approval of a REAL ID compliance enforcement extension request, granted March 27 by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Read the full story at IdahoStateJournal.com.

[http://www.idahostatejournal.com/members/idaho-driver-s-licenses-get-real-id-extension/article\\_b7478bda-d7c3-11e4-84d1-2b6ecc3bcbb2.html](http://www.idahostatejournal.com/members/idaho-driver-s-licenses-get-real-id-extension/article_b7478bda-d7c3-11e4-84d1-2b6ecc3bcbb2.html)

### **Voter ID Bills In Legislature (Nevada)**

A Nevada Assembly committee is expected to decide on two bills requiring voters to show identification in order to cast a ballot. The Assembly Legislative Operations and Elections Committee is scheduled to vote Thursday on AB253 and AB266. Read the full story at LasVegas.CBSLocal.com.

<http://lasvegas.cbslocal.com/2015/04/02/voter-id-bills-in-legislature/>

### **Utah's Herbert Signs Ridesharing Regulations Into Law**

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert has signed a bill that creates new statewide regulations for ridesharing companies like Uber and Lyft while overriding Salt Lake City regulations that have left the company's drivers with big fines. Read the full article on [insurancejournal.com](http://insurancejournal.com).

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/west/2015/04/02/363222.htm>

## **Other News**

### **An Easy Win: Strong GDL Laws Maximize Benefits**

It's been nearly two decades since graduated driver licensing (GDL) programs began to take hold in the U.S., and these novice driver laws have proved extremely successful in reducing fatal crashes among teenagers. Still, many laws could be better. At least 10 states could more than halve or nearly halve their rate of fatal crashes among 15-17 year-olds if they adopted the five strongest GDL provisions, IIHS estimates. Separately, a new IIHS study of GDL laws shows that progress on enhancing the most effective provisions of GDL has slowed. In recent years, most revisions to young driver laws have addressed driver cellphone use and texting, while other provisions known to promote big safety benefits have seen little change. Read the full status report on [iihs.org](http://iihs.org).

<http://www.iihs.org/iihs/sr/statusreport/article/50/3/1>

### **Could "Safe Phone Zones" Help Stop Distracted Driving?**

The Governors Highway Safety Association has given a thumbs-up to plans by Illinois and other states to create designated zones for drivers to use their cellphones. Read the full article on [AssociationsNow.com](http://AssociationsNow.com).

<http://associationsnow.com/2015/04/could-safe-phone-zones-help-stop-distracted-driving/>

### **US Infrastructure: Secretary of Transportation Touts \$478 Billion Highway-Funding Plan**

US Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx this week touted a \$478 billion highway-funding plan that would help rebuild the crumbling American infrastructure, which has been under the spotlight recently. The bill would boost funding for infrastructure by 45 per cent and would nearly triple the funding for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, according to the Wall Street Journal. Read the full article on [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk).

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-infrastructure-secretary-of-transportation-touts-478-billion-highwayfunding-plan-10153445.html>

### **Delphi Completes 3,400-Mile Autonomous Trip**

Auto supplier Delphi Delphi Automotive PLC said Thursday it has completed an almost entirely autonomous 3,400-mile trip across North America — the latest effort to show off the future of driving by machines. Read the full article on [detroitnews.com](http://www.detroitnews.com).

<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/autos/2015/04/02/delphi-completes-mile-autonomous-trip/70821688/>

### **Regulatory Issues Involving Self-Driving Vehicles Begin To Take Shape**

This year we're placing our focus on the rapid pace of development in autonomous vehicles and self-driving car technologies here on IPWatchdog. We're still a fair ways off from the entrance of a self-driving vehicle into the consumer marketplace; some with a knowledge of the industry believe that the debut for autonomous vehicles won't be experienced until 2020, with widespread adoption taking another five years. Still, an explosion in patent filings for self-driving systems and other automotive technologies tells us that we're about to see some pretty revolutionary advances in the coming years. Read the full article on [ipwatchdog.com](http://www.ipwatchdog.com).

<http://www.ipwatchdog.com/2015/04/03/regulatory-issues-involving-self-driving-vehicles-begin-to-take-shape/id=56207/>

### **DHS Renews Quest for Access to National License Plate Tracking System**

The Department of Homeland Security is seeking bids from companies able to provide law enforcement officials with access to a national license-plate tracking system — a year after canceling a similar solicitation over privacy issues. Read the full story at [WashingtonPost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com).

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/dhs-renews-quest-for-access-to-national-license-plate-tracking-system/2015/04/02/4d79385a-d8a1-11e4-8103-fa84725dbf9d\\_story.html?wprss=rss\\_national-security](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/dhs-renews-quest-for-access-to-national-license-plate-tracking-system/2015/04/02/4d79385a-d8a1-11e4-8103-fa84725dbf9d_story.html?wprss=rss_national-security)

## **Did You Know**

### **APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH**

- More than 30 studies show hands-free devices are no safer because the brain remains distracted by the conversation.
- When talking on a cell phone, drivers can miss seeing up to half of what's around them, such as traffic lights, stop signs and pedestrians.
- In 2013, 3,154 were killed in distracted driving crashes.
- An estimated 424,000 injured in motor vehicle crashes that involved distracted drivers.
- Our youngest and most inexperienced drivers are most at risk, with 10% of all distracted driving crashes involving drivers under the age of 20. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted.
- Distracted driving crashes were responsible for \$129 billion in societal costs in 2010.



- Almost 90 percent of drivers reported engaging in at least one technology-based distraction while driving their child in the prior month, and most drivers reported engaging in 4 of the 10 distractions asked about in a University of Michigan study published in 2014.
- 14 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands prohibit all drivers from using hand-held cell phones while driving. All are primary enforcement laws—an officer may cite a driver for using a hand-held cell phone without any other traffic offense taking place.
- No state bans all cell phone use for all drivers, but 38 states and D.C. ban all cell phone use by novice drivers, and 20 states and D.C. prohibit it for school bus drivers.
- Washington was the first state to pass a texting ban in 2007. Currently, 45 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands ban text messaging for all drivers. All but 5 have primary enforcement.

Learn more about distracted driving:

- National Safety Council <http://www.nsc.org/learn/NSC-Initiatives/Pages/distracted-driving-awareness-month.aspx>
- Distraction.gov <http://www.distraction.gov/>
- NHTSA Traffic Safety Marketing <http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/CAMPAIGNS/Distracted+Driving/One+Text+or+Call+Could+Wreck+It+All>
- EndDD End Distracted Driving <http://enddd.org/>
- Distracted Driving Laws by State (GHSA) [http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone\\_laws.html](http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone_laws.html)