

April 17, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Online Registration Now Open for Region IV and Region II Conferences

- Region IV Conference -- June 1-4 -- Park City, Utah
Conference Web site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5613> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>
- Region II Conference -- June 21-24 -- Montgomery, Alabama
Conference Web site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6368> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

Meet With Members One-on-One at the Region II General Session: QuickConnect

QuickConnect is a unique one-on-one opportunity where exhibitors and qualified sponsors get a chance to meet with jurisdiction representatives. This year's format allows jurisdictions to set up QuickConnect sessions with industry representatives based on the company descriptions. Fun, interactive, and fast-moving, the QuickConnect sessions are excellent for discussing products and services, or providing answers to current challenges. Don't wait! Get started today by registering online for the 2015 AAMVA Region II Conference

<https://www.aamva.org/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fprofile%2fListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

Region I

Pennsylvania Lawmakers Seek Complete Cell Phone Ban While Driving

Texting while driving is already illegal in Pennsylvania, but state lawmakers are now looking to ban talking on your cell phone as well. Read the full story at PALive365.com.

<http://www.palive365.com/2015/04/16/pa-lawmakers-seek-complete-cell-phone-ban-while-driving/>

Bill Would Block Truck Safety Records from Public (Pennsylvania)

Every single time a truck driver is cited for a safety violation - whether it's for ignoring basic safety maintenance of equipment, disregarding hours of service requirements or reckless driving - the citation is logged into a federal database and made available to the public. Read the full story at PennLive.com.

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2015/04/trucking_safety_records_csa_lo.html

Region II

Alabama House Passes Bill Requiring Motorcycle Operators to Take Test or Rider Course

The Alabama House passed a bill today requiring motorcycle operators to take a rider safety course or written test to obtain a Class M endorsement on their driver's license. The bill received no debate in the House likely because the legislation sponsored by Rep. Phillip Pettus, R- Killen, grandfathers in all Alabamians who currently have a Class M endorsement. Read the full story at AL.com.

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/04/alabama_house_passes_bill_requ.html

North Carolina Lawmakers Consider Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants

Members of a North Carolina legislative panel approved a plan on Wednesday to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a restricted driver's license if they pass a criminal background check and meet several other requirements. Read the full story at WUNC.org.

<http://wunc.org/post/nc-lawmakers-consider-driver-s-licenses-undocumented-immigrants>

South Carolina DMV New License Plate Designs

On May 1, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will begin issuing redesigned license plates to comply with South Carolina Code of Laws 56-3-8000 (b) and 56-3-8100 (c), which require a basic design for all license plates. DMV will make the changes in phases until all license plates have been transitioned, but the process will begin with specialty license plates. Read the DMV press release.

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

Bill Would Ease Driver's License Restrictions on South Carolina Seniors

A House panel approved a bill Wednesday that would allow South Carolinians 65 and older to get driver's licenses every 10 years instead of every five years. Read the full story at MyrtleBeachOnline.com.

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article18659139.html>

Virginia Poised to Limit License-Plate Reader Records

Virginia could soon set the strictest limits in the nation on how long law-enforcement agencies can retain automated license-plate reader records. Read the full story at AutoBlog.com.

<http://www.autoblog.com/2015/04/16/virginia-limits--license-plate-reader-records/?ncid=edlinkusauto00000015>

Region III

Senate Approves Nybo's Bill Increasing Penalties for Exceeding Driving Limits (Illinois)

The Senate has approved legislation sponsored by State Sen. Chris Nybo to increase criminal penalties for truck drivers and their employers who exceed legal limits on driving hours and, as a result, cause serious traffic accidents. Read the full story at ChicagoTribune.com.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/western-springs/community/chi-ugc-article-senate-approves-nybos-bill-increasing-penalt-2-2015-04-15-story.html>

Colonel Mark Bruce Confirmed by Kansas Senate

On April 2, the Kansas Highway Patrol's Superintendent, Colonel Mark Bruce, was confirmed by the Kansas Senate and will now officially serve as the Kansas Highway Patrol's 22nd superintendent. Colonel Bruce will be responsible for all operations of the Patrol, while working closely with Governor Sam Brownback's office. Colonel Bruce has served more than 25 years with the Patrol, and has overseen several sections within the agency. Read the KHP press release.

<http://www.kansashighwaypatrol.org/press/2015/2015-p-0062.html>

Moon Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (Kansas)

Colonel Mark Bruce, Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol has announced that Interim Assistant Superintendent Randy Moon has been promoted to lieutenant colonel, and has begun permanently serving as the assistant superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, the position he has held in an interim capacity since February. Moon has served with the agency for 29 years, and has 31 years of law enforcement service to the citizens of Kansas. Read the KHP press release.

<http://www.kansashighwaypatrol.org/press/2015/2015-p-0182.html>

Senator Capri Cafaro Proposes Wrong-Way Driving Legislation (Ohio)

State Senator Capri Cafaro (D-Hubbard) and Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) have introduced bipartisan legislature to increase penalties for drivers traveling on the wrong side of an interstate highway. Read the full story at WFMJ.com.

<http://www.wfmj.com/story/28772996/sen-capri-cafaro-proposes-wrong-way-driving-legislation>

Ohio AG Files Lawsuit Against Local Car Dealership

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine on Friday accused a Sandusky dealership of failing to deliver titles. He filed a lawsuit that charges former car salesman Brian Vanvlerah with violating Ohio's Certificate of Motor Vehicle Title Act. In the last two years, about 10 purchasers filed complaints with the attorney general's office against Vanvlerah and his now closed business Hometown Car Sales on West Monroe Street. Most of the complaints involved titles. Read the full story at SanduskyRegister.com.

<http://www.sanduskyregister.com/news/legal/7831186>

New Highway Patrol Motorcycles To Help with DUI Enforcement (South Dakota)

Thanks to a federal grant, South Dakota Highway Patrol troopers will begin using motorcycles for the first time in 30 years. Three new 2015 Harley Davidson motorcycles were unveiled Friday in front of the state Capitol. They are now operational. Colonel Craig Price, superintendent of the state Highway Patrol, said funding for the program comes from a federal grant through the state Office of Highway Safety. He said the primary use for the motorcycles, as stated in the grant application, will be for DUI enforcement. Read the DPS press release.

<http://news.sd.gov/agencynews.aspx?id=21>

WisDOT Offers Health Care Specialists a New Online Service to Certify Disabled Parking Eligibility

Doctors, advanced practice nurses, chiropractors and other specialists can now easily certify their patients' eligibility status for disabled parking through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) new online process at <https://app.wi.gov/disabledparking>. Read the DOT press release.

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/index.htm>

Region IV

Arizona and Idaho Join REAL ID Driver's License Security Trend

Enacted in 2005, the federal REAL ID Act prohibits federal agencies from accepting driver's licenses as identification for "official purposes," such as boarding an airplane, unless the state issuing those driver's licenses meets standards set by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). To date, 45 states have either been certified by DHS as meeting the REAL ID standards or have been granted an extension to meet the standards. Only five states are designated as noncompliant by DHS. Read the full story at KHQ.COM.

<http://www.khq.com/story/28748383/arizona-and-idaho-join-real-id-drivers-license-security-trend>

Bill Giving California Agents Access to Vehicle Records Heads to Committee

A bill that would direct the California Department of Motor Vehicles to give insurance agents and brokers better access to motor vehicle records will be heard before the before the Assembly Transportation Committee on Monday. Read the full story at InsuranceJournal.com.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/west/2015/04/10/363979.htm>

California Bill Would Force Uber to Guard Passenger Privacy

Some Uber employees tracked trips of prominent people through the company's "God View tool." One executive threatened to do opposition research on journalists. Some reports allege that stolen Uber customer information is for sale on the Dark Web. Such disclosures have raised concerns about the ride-hailing company's privacy policy. Read the full story at SFChronicle.com.

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/California-bill-would-force-Uber-to-guard-6204732.php?t=4672409ac100af33be&cmpid=twitter-premium>

Road Repair Bill Would Raise California Gas Tax, Vehicle Fees

There's bipartisan agreement at the state Capitol that California's roads and highways need billions of dollars in repairs. The question is where the money would come from. A new proposal would hit drivers in three ways. Read the full story at CAPRadio.org

<http://www.capradio.org/articles/2015/04/16/road-repair-bill-would-raise-california-gas-tax,-vehicle-fees/>

Idaho To Join Handful Of States That Charge Electric Car Owners Extra

The federal government and many states have offered car buyers incentives to venture into the electric car market. But now some states are going in a different direction. They're charging owners more. And Idaho recently approved one of the country's highest fees for electric cars. Read the full story at NWPR.org.

<http://nwpr.org/post/idaho-join-handful-states-charge-electric-car-owners-extra>

Senate Considers Bill that Would Trim Long DMV Lines (Nevada)

Senate Majority Leader Michael Roberson, a member of the panel, asked Troy Dillard, director of the department, what his agency needs to fix the problem with the long lines. Dillard said the two budget items will address both the immediate need to reduce long lines at DMV offices and allow for a long-term fix that will improve transaction times by 30 percent. Read the full story at ReviewJournal.com.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/nevada-legislature/senate-considers-bill-would-trim-long-dmv-lines>

Distracted Driving Bill Dies in Washington Legislature

A measure that would've banned things like sending emails and searching the Web while driving won't advance in the Legislature. Read the full story at TheRepublic.com.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/7c2e5e95965c41018f4e546493acc66f/WA--Distracted-Driving>

Other News

Study Says Autonomous Vehicles Will Increase Risk of Motion Sickness

A study conducted by the students of University of Michigan says autonomous vehicles will increase the risks of motion sickness. More than 3,200 adults in United States, Japan, China, India, Australia and UK were asked by Michael Sivak and Brandon Schoettle of the U-M Transportation Research Institute what they would do inside a fully autonomous car. Read the full story at WorldCarFans.com.

<http://www.worldcarfans.com/115041292054/study-says-autonomous-vehicles-will-increase-risk-of>

Self-Driving Cars a Bumpy Ride for Insurance Industry

Every industry has its doomsday scenario. Usually it involves technology. The 19th century textile industry's apocalyptic fears revolved around the mechanical loom, which threatened to put weavers out of work by automating their jobs. The horse-and-buggy trade was terrified of Henry Ford's Model T. For today's auto insurers, the harbinger of doom is the self-driving car. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/fs/Self-Driving-Cars-Bumpy-Ride-for-Insurance-Industry.html>

New Orleans Court to Consider Lifting Hold on Obama Immigration Action

White House hopes rest on conservative appellate court in Louisiana after judge's earlier halt on order, which could help up to 5m immigrants remain in US. A federal appeals court was scheduled to consider on Friday the Obama administration's plea to lift a hold on its executive action on immigration, which was imposed by a federal judge in February. Read the full story at TheGuardian.com.

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/apr/17/immigration-reform-court-new-orleans-obama-executive-action>

Did You Know

APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

- 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.
- 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:

- 10 Deadliest Distractions (Property Casualty 360)
<http://www.propertycasualty360.com/2013/04/11/10-deadliest-driving-distractions>
- Triple Threat: The 3 Types of Distracted Driving (esurance)
<https://www.esurance.com/info/car/3-types-of-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