

April 24, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Registration Open for Region I Conference

Registration is now open for the 2015 Region I Conference. (<http://www.aamva.org/2015-Region-I-Conference-Home/>) The conference will be held at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania, July 12-15. Our hosts in Pennsylvania are putting together a dynamic program on emerging and relevant topics. Join us in Hershey, “the sweetest place on earth,” for opportunities to network with your colleagues, and to visit with industry partners to hear about solutions that provide opportunities to solve your business challenges. Visit the 2015 Region I Conference Web site for additional information, or contact Patrice Aasmo via email (paasmo@aamva.org), or at 571-435-2861. Register online today! (<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>

Register Online for AAMVA 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>
- Region I Conference – July 12-15 – Hershey, Pennsylvania
Conference Web Site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/2015-Region-I-Conference-Home/> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

Region I

New Law Would Require Some But Not All Taxi Passengers To Wear Seatbelts (New York)

A new Vision Zero proposal would require front-seat passengers in cabs to buckle up, as well as children under the age of 16—both of which are currently exempt in a bizarre seat belt loophole. Read the full story at Gothamist.com.

http://gothamist.com/2015/04/21/seatbelts_taxi_law.php

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, grandfathered 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

Alabama House Votes Down Distracted Driving Bill

Alabama lawmakers won't debate a bill that would prohibit drivers from reading or petting their dog while behind the wheel. The Alabama House on Thursday voted down legislation that would make distracted driving a ticket-worthy offense. Read the full story at eNewsCourier.com.

http://www.enewscourier.com/news/local_news/alabama-house-votes-down-distracted-driving-bill/article_9a796eaa-ea75-11e4-90d1-63580d3cf165.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>

Bill to Increase School Bus Penalties Advances in Senate (North Carolina)

A measure that would increase penalties on drivers that pass school buses advanced once step closer to final passage when the N.C. Senate voted 46 to 2 to approve the bill on its second reading. Read the full story at SalisburyPost.com.

<http://www.salisburypost.com/2015/04/23/bill-to-increase-school-bus-penalties-advances-in-senate/>

Transgender Teen Can Wear Makeup in South Carolina DMV Photo, Settlement Says

South Carolina DMV will change policy on driver's license photos after lawsuit from transgender teen's family. 'My hope is that I made a difference for other people,' says transgender teen who sued South Carolina DMV. South Carolina's Department of Motor Vehicles will allow a transgender teenager to wear makeup and women's clothing for her driver's license photo, rather than requiring her to dress like a boy, because of a legal settlement that was announced Wednesday morning. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-south-carolina-dmv-transgender-20150422-story.html>

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>

Driver's License Worker Indicted in Bribery Scheme (Tennessee)

A former Department of Safety employee has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges he took bribes to issue driver's licenses to individuals who had failed their exams. Read the full story at Tennessean.com.

<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/crime/2015/04/20/drivers-license-worker-indicted-bribery-scheme/26094917/>

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

House Votes to Curb Specialty License Plates (Illinois)

Illinois lawmakers are trying to put the brakes on specialty license plates. The Illinois House voted 108-1 Monday to create a new way to stop the growth in the number of special plates by creating a universal license plate with a specialized sticker. State Rep. John D'Amico, D- Chicago, said the measure will help Illinois police keep track of what plates are on the roads. Read the full story at Pantagraph.com.

http://www.pantagraph.com/news/state-and-regional/illinois/government-and-politics/house-votes-to-curb-specialty-license-plates/article_b7259875-fd21-5b1d-b307-6a8bd0050804.html

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>

Massive Driver's License Fraud Uncovered at Local DMV (Kansas)

A driver's license examiner is accused of taking bribes to make driver's licenses for people who could not legally obtain them. Johnson County investigators said Samantha Moore, 28, worked at the license office in Mission. She is accused of taking \$2,500 each to make licenses for dozens of people. Read the full story at KMBC.com.

<http://www.kmbc.com/news/massive-drivers-license-fraud-uncovered-at-local-dmv/32533210>

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>

Carjacking Victim Sues Ohio Highway Patrol Over 2013 Truck Stop Shooting

A lawsuit has been filed following a deadly crime spree by two Columbus teenagers in the summer of 2013. The teens shot a man in the face at a Madison County truck stop as they tried to get out of central Ohio. The shooting victim survived - but is now suing the Ohio Highway Patrol. Read the full story at 10TV.com.

<http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2015/04/21/columbus-ohio-car-jacking-victim-sues-ohio-highway-patrol-over-truck-stop-shooting.html>

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>

Online Renewal of Wisconsin Driver's Licenses Scaled Back

Gov. Scott Walker's proposal allowing Wisconsin driver's licenses to be renewed online one time has been scaled back by the Legislature's budget committee. The Joint Finance Committee voted Wednesday to allow online renewal only for new drivers moving from an instructional permit to a probationary license and then to a regular license. Read the full story at JournalTimes.com.

http://journaltimes.com/news/state-and-regional/allowing-online-renewal-of-driver-s-licenses-up-for-vote/article_7a19cbf1-6f86-59bb-a832-39c0aef2d2be.html

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>

California Man Sentenced to Prison for Odometer Fraud Scheme

A Tarzana, California, man was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles to serve two years in prison on charges related to an odometer tampering scheme, the Department of Justice announced. Shama Salpeter, 66, was sentenced by Chief Judge George H. King in the Central District of California to serve 24 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay \$421,666 in restitution to victims who purchased vehicles without knowing the odometer readings were incorrect. Read the full story at Justice.gov.

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/california-man-sentenced-prison-odometer-fraud-scheme>

Bill Giving California Agents Access to Vehicle Records Passes Committee

A bill that would direct the California Department of Motor Vehicles to give insurance agents and brokers better access to motor vehicle records was unanimously approved by the Assembly Transportation Committee. Read the full story at InsuranceJournal.com.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/west/2015/04/17/364848.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>

Idaho Lawmakers Vote to Hike Fuel Charges, Vehicle Fees for Transportation Upgrades

Users of Idaho's highway system will pay 7 cents a gallon more in user fees on motor fuel starting July 1, while annual vehicle registration fees will rise and owners of electric or hybrid cars and light trucks will be assessed a new levy to reflect their use of infrastructure without supporting it through fuel fees. Read the full story at AASHTOJournal.org.

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/041715idaho.aspx>

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>

DHS Establishes Enforcement Date for Real ID (Nevada)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has established Oct. 1, 2020 as the deadline when they will begin requiring those boarding an aircraft using a driver's license to have a Real ID license, according to the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles. Read the DMV press release.

<http://dmvnev.com/news/15003-Real-ID-Enforcement.htm>

Bill Targets Left-Lane Slowpokes (Washington)

Driving under the speed limit while in the fast lane could get pricey under legislation being pushed by state Sen. Michael Baumgartner, R-Spokane, who wants a new crackdown on "aggravated left-lane driving." Slow left-lane drivers are not only a nuisance but also a safety hazard, forcing other drivers to slam on their brakes or weave around them, Baumgartner said. Read the full story at Union-Bulletin.com.

<http://union-bulletin.com/news/2015/apr/21/bill-targets-left-lane-slowpokes-washington/>

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

Public Officials, Law Enforcement at Increased Risk of Cyberattacks and Doxing, FBI Says

In a bulletin released this week, the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) warned that hackers are mining social media accounts to compile dossiers of personal information about law enforcement personnel and public officials, and are posting the data online. Read the full story at TechWire.net.

<https://www.techwire.net/public-officials-law-enforcement-at-increased-risk-of-cyberattacks-and-doxing-fbi-says/>

Are Smartwatches Dangerous? Lawyer Wants \$1 Billion Campaign to Warn Drivers

An attorney is seeking a court order that four tech giants fund a \$1-billion smartwatch warning campaign. After the Apple Watch ships to initial customers Friday, thousands of motorists might be sneaking a glance at the smartwatch to read text messages and other alerts. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-apple-driving-suit-20150421-story.html?track=rss>

New Technology May Prevent Accidents By Reading Drivers' Body Language

Active safety systems such as forward collision prevention and lane keeping assist can automatically take over a car's brakes and steering when sensors detect that an accident is imminent. These so-called "driver assist" systems use cameras and other sensors as well as software to detect and then respond to potentially dangerous situations that drivers may miss. Read the full story at Forbes.com.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/dougnewcomb/2015/04/22/new-technology-looks-inward-to-prevents-accidents-by-reading-drivers-body-language/>

BMW Recalls 91,800 Mini Coopers Due to Air Bag Malfunction

THERE'S A big problem with the Mini Cooper. BMW of North America LLC will recall about 91,800 Mini Coopers in the U.S. to fix a flaw with the passenger seat sensor that may prevent the air bag from deploying, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/autos/bmw/bmw-recalls-91-8000-mini-coopers-due-air-bag-malfunction-article-1.2190550>

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

SPRING ROAD HAZARDS

Spring is here, and with it comes its own set of unique roadway hazards:

- **Potholes and frost heaves:** when snow thaws, the water seeps into the cracks in the pavement. This softens the gravel, and if it freezes again it expands, cracks and breaks, causing potholes to form.
- **Water on Roads:** Melting snow and spring showers means more water on the roads so take your time, drive with caution, and make sure your vehicle has good tires.
- **Slush:** Slush is grabby and can suddenly slow your car down and could make lane changing a difficult operation. Remember to drive extra slowly in and around slush, and don't panic if you lose control of the car; stay calm and regain control by lifting off the accelerator or gently applying your brakes.
- **Black Ice:** Weather patterns fluctuate as the seasons start to change, so there's no guarantee that things won't freeze over again before they get permanently warmer. This constant thawing and re-freezing can be a big contributor to so-called "black ice," which is nearly transparent and therefore hard to spot when driving. This makes driving on bridges and overpasses especially dangerous because they are so prone to overnight freezing.
- **Increased Animal activity:** Animals are incredibly active during the spring. Some are emerging from hibernation, and others are entering mating season. This could mean that more animals

are crossing streets and roaming around. Many animals, especially deer, are most active at dawn or dusk.

- More bicycles on the road: Spring also brings cyclists out of hibernation. Driving alongside cyclists can make traffic maneuvers, from turning right to parallel parking, more dangerous.
- Motorcyclists should prepare for higher likelihood of loose gravel, Mud, and debris.

Find more information online:

- Dangers of Spring Driving (esurance.com) <https://www.esurance.com/info/car/dangers-of-spring-driving>
- Prepare Mentally for the Three Kinds of Spring Riding Hazards (revzilla.com) <http://www.revzilla.com/common-tread/spring-hazards>
- 5 Hazards to Watch for When the Roads Start to Thaw (auto.howstuffworks.com) <http://auto.howstuffworks.com/car-driving-safety/accidents-hazardous-conditions/5-hazards-to-watch-for-when-roads-thaw.htm>
- Car Care: Spring Maintenance Checklist (CBSNews.com) <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/car-care-spring-maintenance-check-list/>