

# July 24, 2015 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

### Register Online for AAMVA Conferences

- Annual International Conference – August 25-27 – Des Moines, Iowa  
Conference Web Site | Register Online  
<http://www.aamva.org/2015-AIC-Home/> |  
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>
- 2015 Region III Information Exchange – November 3-5 – Oak Brook, Illinois  
Conference Web Site | Register Online  
<http://www.aamva.org/2015-Region-III-Information-Exchange/> |  
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

## Region I

### Cab Companies Suing DOT, DMV Over Uber (Connecticut)

Two taxi companies are suing the state. It's over a lack of oversight on ride-hailing services like Uber. Stamford Yellow Cab and Westport Star Taxi are suing the Department of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Hartford Courant reports. The companies claim that Uber drivers are doing business in the state without meeting safety rules and regulations that govern cabs. Read the full story at FoxCT.com.

<http://foxct.com/2015/07/17/cab-companies-suing-dot-dmv-over-uber/>

### Connecticut DMV Shutdown to Start August 11, 'Drive-Only' Program Causing Delays

The big, week-long shutdown of the entire Department of Motor Vehicles will start on August 11 to accommodate putting a new computer system on line, a project that has been in the works for years. All DMV offices will be closed Tuesday through Saturday, August 11 through 15, for everything except licensing services. AAA offices will be open during the DMV shutdown period for license and ID card renewals. Read the full story at WTNH.com.

<http://wtnh.com/2015/07/22/connecticut-dmv-announces-one-week-closure/>

### Maryland Asks Federal Court to Allow Recall of Confederate License Plates

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh asked a federal court Friday to lift a nearly 20-year-old injunction that prevented the state from recalling license plates with Confederate logos. Read the full story at USAToday.com.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/07/17/maryland-confederate-flag-license-plates/30303223/>

### **Legislation Would Brand New Drivers for Their Inexperience (Massachusetts)**

Legislation that would brand new drivers for their inexperience in an attempt to boost driver safety would also help a Revere baker make good on his invention. Daniel Luberto, a Saugus resident whose bakery on Broadway serves Boston and the North Shore, said a close-call with his son behind the wheel inspired the idea. Read the full story at LowellSun.com.

[http://www.lowellsun.com/breakingnews/ci\\_28493188/legislation-would-brand-new-drivers-their-inexperience#ixzz3g9WTJoG2](http://www.lowellsun.com/breakingnews/ci_28493188/legislation-would-brand-new-drivers-their-inexperience#ixzz3g9WTJoG2)

### **AG Healey: Don't Suspend Drivers' Licenses for Drug Offenses (Massachusetts)**

Attorney General Maura Healey said she supports repealing a Massachusetts law that automatically suspends the driver's license of anyone convicted of a drug offense. Read the full story at BostonHerald.com.

[http://www.bostonherald.com/news\\_opinion/local\\_coverage/2015/07/ag\\_healey\\_dont\\_suspend\\_drivers\\_licenses\\_for\\_drug\\_offenses](http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2015/07/ag_healey_dont_suspend_drivers_licenses_for_drug_offenses)

### **DMV Debuts "State Fair" License Plates (New York)**

The New York State DMV and Governor Cuomo unveiled State Fair-themed license plates to debut this year. At the Fair, New York drivers can order the "I LOVE NY" State Fair plates online at the DMV's website or its exhibit at the Fairgrounds. Read the full story at MYTwinT

<http://www.mytwintiers.com/story/d/story/dmv-debuts-state-fair-license-plates/16934/3nPZrCmeDkGXGVarEztzAQ>

### **State Continues to Study Raising Speed Limit to 70 mph (Pennsylvania)**

Pennsylvania motorists who gravitate toward the left lane may have to wait a bit longer to learn whether state policy-makers consider it safe to increase interstate speed limits to 70 mph. Read the full story at TribDem.com.

[http://www.tribdem.com/news/state-continues-to-study-raising-speed-limit-to-mph/article\\_b621112a-2e91-11e5-83cf-8fe88a23627b.html](http://www.tribdem.com/news/state-continues-to-study-raising-speed-limit-to-mph/article_b621112a-2e91-11e5-83cf-8fe88a23627b.html)

### **Fines Double on P.E.I. for Driving While Using a Handheld Device**

People convicted of using handheld communication devices while driving will face tougher penalties following recent amendments to Prince Edward Island's Highway Safety Act. Read the full story at TheGuardian.pe.ca.

<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/News/Local/2015-07-19/article-4217967/Fines-double-on-PEI-for-driving-while-using-a-handheld-device/1>

### **ACLU Files Federal Complaint Against R.I. DMV for Italian National Seeking a Driver's License**

The Rhode Island affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union has filed a federal complaint against the state Division of Motor Vehicles over its failure to provide language accommodations to an Italian national and recent immigrant seeking to take the Rhode Island driver's license test. Read the full story at ProvidenceJournal.com.

<http://www.providencejournal.com/article/20150723/NEWS/150729674>

## **Region II**

### **Online Driver License Renewal, Digital Licenses Available for First Time in Alabama**

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency today unveiled new initiatives, including online driver license renewals, which it says will reduce wait times for residents and help it do more with a shrinking budget. Read the full story at AL.com.

[http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/07/online\\_driver\\_license\\_renewal.html](http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/07/online_driver_license_renewal.html)

### **Drivers Failing DMV Written Tests at Alarming Rates (Florida)**

Nicole Carvalho prides herself on being a safe teen driver, but she almost didn't get a license. Her biggest obstacle she said was the Florida DMV written test, which she took not once or not twice, but eight times. In the past two years, DMV officials have made the test questions tougher, and in two years the failure rate has gone from 40 percent to almost 70 percent. Read the full story at Local10.com.

<http://www.local10.com/news/drivers-failing-dmv-written-tests-at-alarming-rates/34301068>

### **Driver Services Commissioner Welcomes New Board Chairman (Georgia)**

Rob Mikell, Commissioner, Department of Driver Services (DDS) has announced that David Connell has been reappointed by Governor Nathan Deal to the DDS Board of Directors and also will serve as Chairman. Connell will assume his new responsibilities at the next monthly DDS Board Meeting. Read the press release.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=384>

### **KHP's Newest Recruit Class Undergoing Training (Kansas)**

The Kansas Highway Patrol began training the newest trooper recruit class earlier this month. KHP Class #55 reported to the Training Academy on Wednesday, July 8, where they will be for 23 weeks of training. This class marks an effort to have at least one recruit class per year, addresses concerns over

manpower on the state's highways, and is the largest recruit class since 2010. Read the KHP press release.

<http://www.kansashighwaypatrol.org/press/2015/2015-14.html>

### **DMV: Machine to Blame for Holdup in Registration Stickers (North Carolina)**

The Division of Motor Vehicles says problems with a machine that processes mail is responsible for the delay in getting North Carolina motorists their registration stickers that were due June 30. DMV Commissioner Kelly J. Thomas said the agency is a week behind its normal turn-around rate of five to seven days. Read the full story at TheTimesNews.com.

<http://www.thetimesnews.com/article/20150721/NEWS/150729855>

### **1 Worker Dead in PennDOT Crash; 4 Others Injured**

A PennDOT van filled with five state transportation workers swerved off the road and down an embankment, killing the driver Thursday morning in Tioga County. WNEP-TV identifies the victim as Christopher Kerns, 53, of Linden, Pa. He died at the scene, while his four passengers were taken to the hospital for injuries. Read the full article in Pennlive.com.

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2015/07/1\\_worker\\_dead\\_in\\_penndot\\_crash.html#incart\\_river](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2015/07/1_worker_dead_in_penndot_crash.html#incart_river)

### **License Plate Tags May Continue to Stick Around in Pennsylvania**

A plan to eliminate the tiny registration stickers that drivers must put on their license plates appears to be running into a police roadblock. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, hoping to modernize the renewal process and make it more consumer friendly, wants to stop sending out the stickers at the end of next year. Read the full article in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/local/2015/07/20/License-plate-tags-may-continue-to-stick-around/stories/201507200005>

## **Region III**

### **New App Targeting Drunk Drivers for Business in Indiana**

An app designed to get business for attorneys is causing a lot of controversy in Indiana because of the target audience—drunk drivers. The app is called DueyDialer and it was just released in Indiana, but not everyone is on board with the idea. Read the full story at WISHTV.com.

<http://wishtv.com/2015/07/22/new-app-targeting-drunk-drivers-for-business-in-indiana/>

## Region IV

### **DMV Issues Nearly 400,000 Licenses Under AB 60 (California)**

More than 390,000 undocumented immigrants have become legal drivers, and received their California driver's license since Assembly Bill 60 went into effect in January. Officials at California's DMV say that number far exceeds their expectation. Read the full story at Fox40.com.

<http://fox40.com/2015/07/17/dmv-issues-nearly-400000-licenses-under-ab-60/>

### **Ruling Allows California Taxicab Companies To Sue Uber**

A federal judge has ruled California taxicab companies can sue competitor Uber over advertising statements that it offers the safest rides on the road. Read the full story at CAPRadio.org

<http://www.caprado.org/articles/2015/07/20/ruling-allows-california-taxicab-companies-to-sue-uber/>

### **California Senate Endorses Rule Targeting CDL 'Diploma Mills'**

A bill halfway through the California statehouse would put in place a new rule to help ensure that aspiring truck drivers get the proper training before heading out on the road. State law now requires commercial driver's license applicants to pass written and driving tests. Read the full story at LandLineMag.com.

<http://www.landlinemag.com/Story.aspx?StoryID=29438#.Va0ZFrfbK70>

### **DMV Simplifies Application Process for Obtaining Driver's License Under AB 60 (California)**

In an attempt to simplify the application process for obtaining a driver's license under Assembly Bill 60, the California Department of Motor Vehicles began accepting on June 30 additional documents that verify identity and residency, such as those issued by any government body within the United States and not only the federal government. Read the full story at FontanaHeraldNews.com.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/article\\_92db726e-315c-11e5-9e9d-075ff4ccc2db.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/article_92db726e-315c-11e5-9e9d-075ff4ccc2db.html)

### **DMV Employee Traded Commercial Licenses for Cash (California)**

The FBI has arrested two people, including a Sacramento DMV employee, in an alleged scheme to trade commercial driver's licenses for cash. The men are accused of taking thousands of dollars from people who were given passing test scores and then issued illegal licenses to drive commercial trucks and buses. Read the full story at KCRA.com.

<http://www.kcra.com/news/fbi-dmv-employee-traded-commercial-licenses-for-cash/34264752>

### **Study Recommends 400% Gas Tax Hike for Hawaii**

Hawaii drivers already pay the fourth highest gasoline taxes in the country. Now a new report is touting an 85 cents per gallon tax increase as a strategy to reduce the state's reliance on fossil fuels. Read the full story at HawaiiNewsNow.com.

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/29569541/400-gas-tax-hike-studied>

### **Devices Caused Even More Crashes on Idaho Roads in Anti-Texting Law's Third Year**

A law written to reduce distracted driving accidents caused by texting has done little or nothing to solve the problem, a key House committee chair said Thursday. Idaho Transportation Department data reveal distracted driving accidents up a few percentage points in the law's third year. Read the full story at IdahoReporter.com.

<http://idahoreporter.com/37781/devices-caused-even-more-crashes-on-idaho-roads-in-anti-texting-laws-third-year/>

### **DMV Cuts Off Outside Access to Queue System (Nevada)**

DMV's DashPass queue system was unveiled statewide last September, designed to provide customers with more control over the DMV waiting process. Nine months into the experiment, the agency has cut off outside access to the queue system, citing a high rate of no-shows that made the system inefficient. Read the press release.

<http://www.dmvnv.com/news/15009-outside-access-eliminated.htm>

### **SGI Uncovers Privacy Violations in Lestock, Saskatchewan**

SGI says a worker at an independent agent's office in Lestock, Saskatchewan improperly looked up licence plate information on 18 people, in violation of privacy protocols. Read the full story at CBC.ca.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/sgi-uncovers-privacy-violations-in-lestock-saskatchewan-1.3162429>

### **Patrol Welcomes Trooper Basic #88 (Wyoming)**

It takes a special person to become a Wyoming State Trooper. They have to be committed, want to help people and protect the citizens of the state. Read the WHP press release.

<http://www.whp.dot.state.wy.us/home/our-latest-recruit-class.html>

## **Other News**

### **States Crack Down on Driver's License Fraud**

One driver, one license, that's how it's supposed to be. But some fraudsters or drivers with serious violations try to beat the system by getting multiple licenses using different names. Read the full story at PewTrusts.org.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/07/14/states-crack-down-on-drivers-license-fraud>

### **Fiat Chrysler Recalls 1.4 Million Vehicles After Remote Hack**

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) will patch 1.4 million US vehicles following the reveal of a hacking method by Wired. The "voluntary safety recall" -- which it seems will come in the form of a USB dongle - - applies to vehicles equipped with 8.4-inch touchscreen in-car-entertainment systems. Read the full story at Engadget.com.

<http://www.engadget.com/2015/07/24/fiat-chrysler-recall/>

## **Did You Know**

### **MOTORCYCLE SAFETY**

The days are getting warmer, and more and more motorcycles are hitting the roads. Motorcycle riders have a whole realm of safety issues that other drivers on the road don't have. My online search pulled up a lot of safety information for motorcyclists--here are just a few:

- **Take a motorcycle safety course:** The class will teach you about the traffic safety laws that apply to motorcycles in your state, how to respond to emergency situations on a motorcycle, and give you a chance to try out your new skills in a controlled environment. The instructors will also give you tips about motorcycle maintenance and how to avoid unsafe situations.
- **Wear the proper safety gear:** Since a motorcycle offers little protection in a crash, what riders wear is part of the crash protection system.
- **Protect your feet:** When riding a motorcycle, you want sturdy shoes. Look for something with a rugged sole. Shoes with smooth soles make it easier for you to slip. Motorcycle shoes should also have sturdy ankle supports and a low heel. You want something that makes it easier for you to balance. Look for shoes or boots in a durable material, like leather, for better protection.
- **Always wear a DOT-approved helmet.**
- **Never ride your motorcycle after drinking.** Alcohol greatly impairs your ability to safely operate a motorcycle. If you have been drinking, get a ride home or call a taxi. Don't let friends ride impaired. Take their keys away.

Check out these resources for more motorcycle safety information:

- Top 10 Motorcycle Safety Tips (Discovery News) <http://news.discovery.com/autos/drive/top-10-motorcycle-safety-tips.htm>
- Motorcycle Safety (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov/features/motorcyclesafety/>
- 31 Life-Saving Motorcycle Safety Tips (Motorcycle Safety Tips) <http://www.motorcycle-safety-tips.com/>
- 10 motorcycle safety tips for new riders (Consumer Reports) <http://consumerreports.org/cro/2013/04/10-motorcycle-safety-tips-for-new-riders/index.htm>