

July 31, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

AAMVA Alert: Congress Passes Three-Month Highway Extension

On July 30th, Congress passed a three-month highway extension to fund highway programs until October 29, 2015 (HR 3236). This extension follows multiple failed attempts to pass a long-term highway bill before the current July 31st extension. Read the AAMVA Alert for full details.

<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=7002&libID=6977>

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

New State Law Ensures First-Time Drunken Drivers Don't Get A Second Chance (Connecticut)

On March 9, 2012 Benjamin DeMond, a Norwich firefighter, died at 33 from an accident caused by a drunken driver. Authorities said 50-year-old Willis Goodale of Groton was trying to cut across Interstate 395 in Montville to use an emergency vehicle turnaround after leaving a service station. He collided with DeMond's car that was also carrying DeMond's two children, Alexander, 6, and Nicholas, 4, who were seriously injured. Read the full story at Courant.com.

<http://www.courant.com/politics/hc-new-state-law-ensures-firsttime-drunken-drivers-dont-get-a-second-chance-20150726-story.html>

Malloy Says Technology Upgrades Will Ease DMV (Connecticut)

Technology upgrades coming soon to the state Department of Motor Vehicles could help ease long wait times, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy said Tuesday. Some Connecticut residents seeking to schedule driving tests are reporting lengthy waits after the state began offering licenses to undocumented immigrants earlier this year. Read the full story at Courant.com.

<http://www.courant.com/politics/capitol-watch/hc-gov-malloy-says-tech-upgrades-will-make-dmv-more-efficient-20150728-story.html>

Local DMV Offices Losing Money; State-Issued Renewal Notices Blamed (New York)

The Jefferson County clerk's office is warning customers of potentially misleading vehicle registration renewal notices from the state Department of Motor Vehicles. The DMV is sending registration renewal notices informing customers that registration may be renewed only online or by mail. Read the full story at WatertownDailyTimes.com

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/news03/local-dmv-offices-losing-money-state-issued-renewal-notices-blamed-20150728>

Guard from Staten Island Convicted in DMV Test-Cheating Scam (New York)

The answer for this test-taking scheme is up to 20 years in prison. A Brooklyn federal court jury has convicted a Staten Islander who worked as a security guard at a state Motor Vehicles Department office in Manhattan for his role in a scam to help applicants cheat on written exams for commercial driver's licenses. Read the full story at SILive.com.

http://www.silive.com/northshore/index.ssf/2015/07/guard_from_staten_island_convi.html#incart_river

New DMV Online Service Allows Customers to Print a Temporary License (New York)

Governor Cuomo announced that New Yorkers now have the opportunity to print a temporary license from the Department of Motor Vehicles website when they renew or replace their driver licenses, learner permits, or non-driver identification card online. This service will provide a quick, convenient way to get a temporary license, without making a trip to the DMV, allowing drivers and residents to be able to prove a new license is on the way. Read the Governor's press release.

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-dmv-online-service-allowing-customers-print-temporary-license>

Region II

Alabama Rest Area Gun Ban Ended by Governor

Gov. Robert Bentley today ordered the Alabama Department of Transportation to end its policy banning guns in highway rest stops. DOT spokesman Tony Harris said the agency is in the process of removing the signs and will have them removed by Saturday morning. Read the full story at AL.com.

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/07/gov_robert_bentley_ends_ban_on.html

Alabama Driver's License Renewal Going Digital

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency says it has taken steps to address long license renewal lines by upgrading and modernizing the state's driver's license system. Read the full story at TuscaloosaNews.com.

<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/article/20150728/NEWS/150729640/1007?Title=Alabama-driver-s-license-renewal-going-digital>

Virginia Moves to Erase Confederate Flag from License Plates

A judge in the Virginia city that was the final refuge for the Confederacy was set to hear arguments Friday over the state's bid to erase the Confederate battle flag from license plates. Read the full story at WashingtonPost.com.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-moves-to-erase-confederate-flag-from-license-plates/2015/07/31/9d06f1d0-376c-11e5-ab7b-6416d97c73c2_story.html

Region III

Repeat Offenders of State Texting Law Face Higher Fine Starting August 1 (Minnesota)

Drivers who repeatedly choose texting over safety while behind the wheel risk a higher fine for violating the law beginning Saturday. Under the enhanced law, drivers face a \$225 fine for second and subsequent violations of the texting while driving law, in addition to the current \$50 fine. Read the DPS press release.

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ooc/news-releases/Pages/Repeat-offenders-of-state-texting-law-face-higher-fine.aspx>

Ohio Requires Front License Plates, but Some States Don't

Across wide swaths of America, drivers aren't required to display a front license plate on their passenger cars. But it's different in Ohio, where a motorist was fatally shot in Cincinnati during a traffic stop prompted by his failure to display a front plate. Read the full article on abcnews.com.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/ohio-requires-front-license-plates-states-32767897>

Region IV

Alberta Government Warns Consumers About Ride-Sharing Services Such as Uber

The Alberta government says people are taking a risk if they use ride-sharing services such as Uber. The Office of the Superintendent of Insurance says Albertans who use such services may not have access to coverage and accident benefits under Alberta law. Read the full story in The Globe and Mail.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/alberta-government-warns-consumers-about-ride-sharing-services-such-as-uber/article25730034/>

Is Your Plate Peeling? It Could Lead to a \$1,000 Fine (California)

Drew Mendelson is a writer, a Vietnam vet, and a former consultant to some of the state's big-name politicians. What he's not is a scofflaw or scam artist. Neither is his wife or son. Read the full story at SacBee.com.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/transportation/back-seat-driver/article28724602.html#storylink=cpy>

California DMV Cracks Down on Misuse of Disability Parking Placards

The Department of Motor Vehicles is cracking down on drivers who improperly apply for disability parking placards so they can use specially marked parking spots, officials said Wednesday. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-pol-placards-20150730-story.html>

Idaho State Police Reports a Spike in Road Fatalities this Summer

From Memorial Day weekend through July 29, Idaho State Police troopers had responded to 45 traffic fatalities, a 61 percent increase over the 28 fatalities that ISP investigated during the same period last year. Read the full story at IdahoStatesman.com.

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2015/07/30/3917788/idaho-state-police-reports-a-spike.html>

DMV Reports Wait Times are Dropping (Nevada)

DMV's decision earlier this week to suspend remote access to its queue systems in four Las Vegas offices and Reno is showing positive results in just the first few days, according to DMV Director Troy Dillard. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.dmvnv.com/news/15009-wait-times-dropping.htm>

DMV Begins Long-Awaited Upgrade of Record Systems (Oregon)

With state government's most notorious information-technology failure hanging over it, lawmakers have approved more than \$30 million to start a decade-long upgrade of driver and motor vehicle record systems. Read the full story at PortlandTribune.com.

<http://portlandtribune.com/pt/9-news/267950-142041-dmv-begins-long-awaited-upgrade-of-record-systems>

Washington Gas Tax Goes Up Seven Cents Saturday

The price you pay for gas will go up seven cents per gallon Saturday. The Washington state Legislature voted to approve the increase as part of the transportation package approved in the last session. Read the full story at NWCN.com.

<http://www.nwcn.com/story/money/consumer/2015/07/29/gas-tax-increase-transportation/30823249>

Other News

Highway Patrols in 5 States Ramp Up for Sturgis Rally

Highway patrol troopers in the four states bordering western South Dakota are paying extra attention to traffic flocking to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which is expecting a huge influx of people for its 75th anniversary bash next week. Read the full article in the Washington Times.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jul/31/highway-patrols-in-5-states-ramp-up-for-sturgis-ra/>

High-Mileage Drivers More Dismissive of Value of Speed Cameras, Says Survey

High-mileage drivers are more likely than any other type of road user to think speed cameras have 'little or no influence' in reducing the numbers of road casualties in the UK, according to a white paper issued by the Institute of Advanced Motorists' (IAM) Drive and Survive division. Read the full story at ITSInternational.com.

<http://www.itsinternational.com/sections/general/news/high-mileage-drivers-more-dismissive-value-of-speed-cameras-says-survey/>

To Get Big-Rig Drivers, Senate Bill Would Give Keys To Teens

Tractor-trailers have 18 wheels. But under current federal law, you can't be 18 years old and drive one across state lines. You have to be 21. The highway bill working its way through the Senate, though, would change that. Read the full story at NPR.org.

<http://www.npr.org/2015/07/31/427712873/to-get-drivers-behind-big-rigs-senate-bill-allow-teen-drivers>

Did You Know

STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY

- The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally will be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, August 3-9, 2015.
- 1.2 million cyclists are expected at this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.
- The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is an American motorcycle rally held annually in Sturgis, South Dakota usually during the first full week of August.

- Sturgis started as a group of guys, Jackpine Gypsies motorcycle club, who held a series of motorcycles races in 1938.
- The first event was called the "Black Hills Classic" and consisted of a single race with nine participants and a small audience.
- The Sturgis Rally has been held every year, with exceptions during World War II. For instance, in 1942, the event was not held due to gasoline rationing.
- In 2014 an estimated 442,200 attended Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.
- 538.72 tons of garbage was hauled away from Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in 2014.

Learn more online at:

- Sturgis Motorcycle Rally FAQs and Statistics (www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com) <http://www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com/rally-info/faq-and-statistics>
- A monster on the horizon: 75th annual Sturgis rally next year could draw 1 million (Billings Gazette) http://billingsgazette.com/news/national/a-monster-on-the-horizon-th-annual-sturgis-rally-next/article_ef7016e9-5ec6-5004-a44e-9783b4c12e9a.html#ixzz3hUVKLQ4c
- 6 Things You Need to Know to Survive Sturgis (www.rideapart.com) <https://rideapart.com/articles/beginners-guide-sturgis>
- Sturgis Motorcycle Rally (Wikipedia) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sturgis_Motorcycle_Rally
- Sturgis Motorcycle Rally 2015 (travelSouthDakota.com) <https://www.travelsouthdakota.com/event-detail/sturgis-motorcycle-rally-2015>
- Thousands of Motorcyclists Already Heading West for 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally (www.ksfy.com) <http://www.ksfy.com/home/headlines/Thousands-of-motorcyclists-already-heading-west-for-75th-Sturgis-Motorcycle-Rally-320217041.html>