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MEDIA RELEASE

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OHIO BMV ADVISES PUBLIC TO RENEW DRIVER LICENSE AHEAD OF TIME

Recent Problems with National Driver Registry Causing Delays Across United States and Canada

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles is advising those with driver licenses due to expire soon to renew them well before the deadline because of national mainframe system issues. The National Driver Registry (NDR), through which all driver license applications must be checked, has been experiencing delays and temporary service outages. This problem is affecting all deputy registrar agencies in Ohio and license agencies throughout the United States and Canada.

The NDR is a computerized database of information about drivers who have had their licenses revoked or suspended, or who have been convicted of serious traffic violations such as driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs. State motor vehicle agencies provide NDR with the names of individuals who have lost their privileges or who have pending serious traffic violations. When a person applies for a driver license, the state checks the database to determine if the person is able to obtain a license. If a person is not eligible, the license may be denied.

As a result of the 1999 Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act, states are required to verify all driver information through this national registry. Several states have just recently started verifying driver information through the registry, doubling the amount of transactions in the past three years from 40 million per year to 80 million per year, causing a strain on the system.

The first slow-down was reported August 15, 2007, lasting almost five hours. Since then, there have been 12-29 outages each month, ranging from one minute to 3 hours and 20 minutes. During these outages, no license transactions can be processed. This problem does not affect persons applying for license plates.

The Ohio BMV is currently involved in discussions with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) for updates on the situation and possible solutions.

Until these issues are resolved, the Ohio BMV apologizes for this inconvenience and **urges all driver license applicants not to wait until the last day to renew or apply for a new license** since it is possible that your transaction may not be able to be processed within a reasonable amount of time.