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NEWS

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

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Illinois Senate Agrees to Non-Expiring Identification Cards for Senior Citizens

SPRINGFIELD — Senior citizens in Illinois would be issued non- expiring state identification cards under legislation approved today by the Illinois Senate. Secretary of State Jesse White has asked the Legislature to make the identification cards permanent for citizens aged 65 and older.

"This is one more way to improve customer service in the Secretary of State's office and serve the public more efficiently," said White. "Illinois identification cards provide a legally recognizable form of identity for many Illinois citizens. Senior citizens who have stopped driving shouldn't have to make an extra trip to a local driver services facility to get a new picture for their ID card."

Currently, senior citizens must renew their state ID every ten years. Senate Bill 1353 would make identification cards for persons aged 65 and older non-expiring. The legislation is supported by the American Association of Retired Persons.

"Many seniors use these cards when cashing a check or for other purposes," said Assistant Senate Democratic Leader Vince DeMuzio (D-Carlinville), lead sponsor of the legislation. "They may no longer possess a driver's license and depend on this card when asked to show identification. Though persons over the age of 65 pay no fee for their cards, under current law they must renew them every ten years. This strikes me as unnecessary."

The legislation, which received unanimous approval from the Senate, now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.