



# Jesse White

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## SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

### ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- **June 05, 2000**
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### **New Law Allows Secretary Of State to Track Court Supervisions**

**SPRINGFIELD** — A new law proposed by Secretary of State Jesse White requiring all court supervisions for traffic offenses to be reported to his office was signed by Governor Ryan on June 2.

White pushed for the new law following an investigation of a deadly accident between a semi-trailer truck and an Amtrak passenger train in Bourbonnais last year. The investigation found that the driver of the truck had an established track record of using court supervisions in multiple jurisdictions to avoid punishment for poor driving.

"I want to thank the General Assembly and Governor Ryan for helping improve highway safety," said White. "This new law will give judges and prosecutors full information on each driver's record. Dangerous drivers will no longer be able to hide traffic violations from the courts."

The new law gives the Secretary of State authority to establish a centralized database of court supervisions for drivers in all 102 counties in Illinois. Because courts do not currently share such information, it is impossible for a judge in one county to know whether a driver has been granted court supervision anywhere else.

The legislation (HB 2883) also provides that all the information reported to the Secretary of State is available only to the affected driver and for use by the courts, police officers, prosecuting authorities and the Secretary of State. The information will not be available to insurance companies.

The measure is an outgrowth of Secretary of State Jesse White's Highway Safety 2000 Advisory Panel, which was formed in early 1999 to investigate concerns raised by the tragic accident in Bourbonnais. White continues to consult with the panel of transportation experts, law enforcement officials, judges and attorneys on other safety issues, including new rules he has established to increase standards for commercial truck drivers in Illinois.

"I want to thank members of the highway safety panel for helping me establish new laws and rules that should make Illinois highways among the safest in the nation," said White. "They have been tremendous partners and I will continue to rely on their input to improve road safety."

The new law goes into effect Oct. 1. The start-up cost for the program will be paid by a federal grant. The \$356,845 grant is provided through the Federal Highway Administration and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.

House Speaker Michael J. Madigan and State Senator Walter Dudyycz sponsored the legislation. Other sponsors of the measure include State Representatives Jay Hoffman, Bill O'Connor, Steve Davis, Mark Beaubien, Kevin McCarthy, Calvin Giles, Charles Morrow, Lou Jones, Art Turner, Lauren Beth Gash, Shirley Jones, Willis Harris, Richard Bradley and State Senator Bill Shaw.