



Jesse White
SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

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Centralized Court Supervision Database Gains Senate Approval

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Senate passed legislation today that requires all court supervisions to be reported to the Secretary of State. The measure, approved with broad bipartisan support, now awaits Governor Ryan's signature to be enacted.

"I want to thank the General Assembly for improving highway safety," said White. "This system will give judges and prosecutors the tools they need to make the proper judgment on traffic violations throughout the state."

House Bill 2883 gives the Secretary of State authority to establish a centralized database of court supervision for drivers in all 102 counties in Illinois and requires the circuit clerk of each county to provide the Secretary of State with information on every court supervision. The legislation 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 legislation 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 a tragic, fatal crash between an Amtrak passenger train and a semi-trailer in Bourbonnais. The investigation of the crash revealed that the driver of the truck had an established track record of using court supervisions in multiple jurisdictions to avoid punishment for poor driving.

"Allowing the Secretary of State to track court supervisions will ensure judges are armed with all the facts of the case," said Senator Walter Dudyycz (R-Chicago), lead sponsor of the legislation and member of the Highway Safety 2000 Advisory Panel. "Under this legislation, dangerous drivers will no longer be able to hide traffic violations from the courts."

White said the start-up cost for the program would be paid for 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.