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**Secretary of State Jesse White Moves to Toughen Penalties on Drunk Driving**  
*Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety unanimously endorses proposals*

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White today took steps to toughen penalties on drunk driving through innovative proposals endorsed unanimously by his Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety. The proposals are supported by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM). White initiated these upgrades at a second public hearing held today in Springfield by the Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety.

The proposals seek to crack down further on drunk driving and reduce repeat drunk driving incidents by expanding participation in the Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) program. White said his office will craft legislation for consideration by the General Assembly.

“My mission as Secretary of State is to make the roads of Illinois the safest ever,” said White. “While Illinois recently received a 5-star rating from MADD, the highest rating possible, for our efforts to fight drunk driving, I refuse to grow complacent. These proposals will make our roads even safer, and they will save lives.”

In the first meeting on March 6, the Advisory Committee listened to testimony from MADD, AAIM, representatives from the Illinois State’s Attorneys Association and the Illinois State Bar Association. The Committee’s meeting today allowed the members to deliberate and vote on the proposals.

The Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety consists of ten members, including: White as chairman; state Reps. John D’Amico (D-Chicago) and Mike McAuliffe (R-Chicago); state Sens. Martin Sandoval (D-Cicero) and Jason A. Barickman (R-Bloomington); Randy Blankenhorn, Acting Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation; John Balser, Acting Regional Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Lt. Bill Langheim, Illinois State Police; Deborah Hersman, President and CEO, National Safety Council; and David Bradford, Executive Director, Northwestern University Center for Public Safety.

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Proposals Endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety

- Add a signature line to the Warning to Motorists form which the driver would be required to sign. If the driver refuses, the law enforcement officer would indicate “refused to sign.”
- Eliminate 30-day hard time for all offenders, as well as 12/36 month hard time statutory summary suspension and one-year DUI conviction hard time for repeat offenders.
- Require BAID if convicted of driving on a revoked license in cases in which the basis of the revocation was aggravated DUI (involving death).
- Require BAID if an offender has any combination of two or more DUI/reckless homicide convictions or statutory summary suspensions. (Currently, BAID is required only if offenses occurred within a 10-year period).
- Require BAID on a first DUI conviction that results in great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement.
- Non-binding recommendation: Require prosecutors to report statistics on the number of DUI arrests, DUI convictions, court supervisions, dismissals and sentence reductions.

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