

For Immediate Release:
May 30, 2013

For More Information Contact:
Dave Druker
Henry Haupt

Jesse White's Legislation Cracking Down On Court Supervision for Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes Approved by the General Assembly
Named Patricia's Law in honor of the late Patricia McNamara

Legislation proposed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to crack down on the issuance of court supervision for drivers involved in fatal crashes was approved by the Illinois General Assembly. The legislation – named Patricia's Law in honor of Patricia McNamara who was killed in an automobile crash in which the driver received court supervision – now moves to the governor's office for his approval.

"My mission as Secretary of State is to make the roads of Illinois as safe as possible," said White. "Since I took office in 1999, I have continually worked to improve traffic safety laws, particularly those laws involving court supervision. This is an important next step, and one that makes sense."

House Bill 1010, sponsored in the Senate by state Sen. Michael Hastings (D-Matteson) and in the House by state Rep. John D'Amico (D-Chicago), will ensure that drivers involved in fatal crashes are ineligible for court supervision unless they have maintained a clean driving history. The legislation originates from White's Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety, which unanimously supported the measure at a meeting last September. Under current law, drivers involved in fatal crashes may seek and obtain court supervision.

Over the last decade, White's office has initiated legislation to limit the issuance of court supervision, as well as establishing a central database to help judges and court personnel better track the dispositions of court supervision from county to county across the state.

The Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety consists of 10 members: Secretary of State Jesse White, chair; state Reps. John D'Amico (D-Chicago) and Mike McAuliffe (R-Chicago); state Sens. Martin Sandoval (D-Cicero) and Darin LaHood (R-Peoria); Anne Schneider, secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation; Mike Witter, regional administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Commander Jay Keeven of the Illinois State Police; John Ulczycki, vice president of the National Safety Council; and Ray Bradford, executive director of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety.

###