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**Over 91 Percent of Illinois CDL Holders have Complied with
Federal CDL/Medical Merge Program**

Secretary White encourages those who have not yet complied to do so by January 30

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced today that more than 420,000 Illinois CDL holders have successfully complied with the new federal CDL/Medical merge program. This represents over 91 percent of all CDL holders in Illinois. Those not complying by Jan 30 risk losing their CDL privileges.

“Over the last three years my office has worked tirelessly to communicate with CDL holders and the trucking industry about these new federal requirements,” said White. “Our compliance rate is among the highest in the nation. As a result, Illinois is being touted as a national leader in implementing the CDL medical merge.”

Per federal changes initiated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), all CDL holders nationwide were given two years – beginning January 30, 2012, through January 30, 2014 – to declare whether they engage in interstate operation or intrastate operation. If interstate operation is declared, the CDL holder must provide the Secretary of State’s office a copy of their U.S. Department of Transportation medical card. This information is then submitted through the Commercial Driver’s License Information System, which is accessible by law enforcement nationwide.

Beginning in February, the Secretary of State’s office is required to cancel CDL privileges for those who have not complied with this federal regulation. White is encouraging CDL holders who have not complied to do so by January 30.

"The Illinois Secretary of State has been a national leader in implementing the CDL Medical Merge," said Matt Hart, Executive Director of the Illinois Trucking Association. "The agency has worked well with the Illinois Trucking Association over the past three years to communicate with the trucking industry and to ensure that professional truck drivers in Illinois can safely deliver the goods that are vital to the people of Illinois."

"We commend Secretary of State White and his staff for reaching out to the hundreds of thousands of CDL holders to facilitate this federal requirement in the easiest way possible," said Don Schaefer, Executive Vice-President at Mid-West Truckers Association.

The Secretary of State’s office has made repeated efforts to make CDL holders aware of the federal requirements through both direct communication and various CDL industries.

In October 2011, the office sent letters to every Illinois CDL holder informing drivers of their obligation to appear at a Secretary of State facility to declare and submit a medical certificate, if engaged in interstate driving. Follow-up letters to those drivers who had not yet appeared were sent in September and December 2013.

In addition, the Secretary of State's office has engaged in substantial outreach efforts to help ensure that all CDL holders are aware of their obligations and possible cancellation of their CDL privileges. These outreach efforts included presentations at truck and trade shows, communication with regional superintendents of education (most school bus drivers hold CDLs), communication with the 25 largest CDL trucking companies in Illinois, and direct communication to dozens of professional organizations whose members include CDL holders.

CDL holders may find their nearest CDL facility by visiting the Secretary of State's website at: <http://www.ilsos.gov/facilityfinder/facility>.

Further information can be found by visiting the link: http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers_license/CDL/cdl.html#medical or by calling the Secretary of State's CDL Medical Card Unit at 217-785-3002.

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