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Secretary White's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Votes in Favor of Anti-DUI Proposals
White's office will introduce legislation this session

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee voted to endorse three impaired driving proposals designed to make Illinois roads safer by reducing crashes and fatalities.

"I am committed to making the roads of Illinois safer than ever," said White. "These measures will further strengthen our state's impaired driving laws. I want to thank the members of the advisory committee for their time and dedication to traffic safety. I will be introducing legislation this spring to turn the committee's proposals into law."

The advisory committee endorsed the following measures:

- Strengthen prosecution of DUI by allowing prosecutors to introduce as evidence past DUI offenses committed by the defendant to a jury during a trial. Currently, the law does not allow past DUI convictions to be introduced as evidence during a jury trial.
- Strengthen DUI laws by revising the statute defining a first-time DUI offender. Under current statutory summary suspension law, motorists are considered first-time DUI offenders if five or more years have passed since their last DUI.
- Tighten the reporting of rescissions of statutory summary suspension by the courts. Currently, courts may rescind a statutory summary suspension from the driver record for any reason and are not required to identify the reason for the rescission.

The advisory committee, comprised of legislators, federal and state traffic safety experts and law enforcement officials, met previously on Jan. 18 to hear expert witness testimony from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAAIM), law enforcement and other officials on impaired driving issues.

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee consists of 12 members, including Secretary White as chairman; state Representatives: John D'Amico (D-Chicago), Mike McAuliffe (R-Chicago), Marcus Evans (D-Chicago) and Michael Unes (R-Pekin); state Senators: Martin Sandoval (D-Cicero) and Michael Connelly (R-Naperville); David Bradford, Northwestern University Center for Public Safety; Lieutenant Colonel Chris Trame, Illinois State Police; Shannon Alderman, Illinois Department of Transportation; Jenny Burke, National Safety Council; and Lyn Warren, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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