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For More Information Contact:
Henry Haupt
Dave Druker

Jesse White Reminds Motorists to Stop Driving Distracted and Adhere to the Move Over Law
Public Education Campaign Underway

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is again calling on drivers to stop driving while distracted – with a special emphasis on moving over when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle or any stopped vehicle displaying flashing lights. The Move Over Law, also known as Scott’s Law, is designed to protect law enforcement, emergency responders and others who are stopped on the side of roadways.

“Motorists need to focus on driving when they are behind the wheel,” said White. “Stop driving distracted and stop texting. If you see an emergency vehicle stopped on the side of the road, reduce speed and change lanes if possible. Protect those who protect us.”

White announced his office is undertaking efforts to enhance public education on the Move Over Law. This includes:

- Adding a reminder about the Move Over Law to driver’s license renewal notices. The office is required by state law to mail these notices.
- Adding a reminder about the Move Over Law to vehicle registration renewal notices.
- Adding a test question on the Move Over Law to the written driving exam.
- Creating a pamphlet on the Move Over Law for distribution at all Driver Services facilities statewide.

In addition, White has instructed the Secretary of State Police to conduct periodic stings throughout the state to enforce the Move Over Law. This will add a police component to the educational campaign. The goal is not to write tickets, but to ensure that motorists are driving safely and moving over when the law calls for it.

“We have a responsibility to drive safely,” said White. “And we have a duty to protect those who protect us by moving over when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle. It is the law.”

Motorists convicted of violating the Move Over Law face a minimum fine of \$100 up to \$10,000 and the offense goes on the motorist’s driving record. A violator’s driver’s license is suspended for 24 months in the event of a fatality and six months in the event of personal injury.

White reiterated that a new law he initiated is set to take effect July 1, 2019, to further crack down on texting while driving by classifying first-time offenses as moving violations. Under the current law, which took effect in 2014, second and subsequent texting while driving offenses are treated as moving violations, while first offenses are treated as nonmoving violations.

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