



# ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 11, 2021

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### **ILLINOIS STATE POLICE PUBLISH FIRST REPORT FROM NEWLY FORMED MOVE OVER TASK FORCE**

*Report Highlights Proposals to Improve Safety of Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Motorists*

The Move Over Task Force, formed by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker in 2019, today delivered a [report](#) detailing their study of the causes of Move Over crashes and violations and proposing ways to protect law enforcement, emergency responders and all motorists. The Move Over Law, also known as Scott's Law, requires drivers to change lanes when approaching stationary emergency vehicles, including all highway maintenance vehicles displaying flashing lights, and any stationary vehicle with their hazard lights activated. The law also states, if changing lanes is not possible or unsafe, drivers are required to proceed with due caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle and leave a safe distance until they have safely passed the stationary vehicle.

“Our troopers and first responders put their lives on the line every single day in service to communities across Illinois. Ensuring these brave men and women are able to do their job safely and return home unharmed is a top priority for my administration which is why I created the Move Over Task Force in my first year in office,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “This report is an important step forward in our work to protect troopers and emergency responders on Illinois roadways and I applaud the members of the task force for establishing recommendations that will help make our roads safer.”

“While progress has been made and public awareness has increased regarding Move Over laws, the daily threat to all first responders remains far too high,” said Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly. “The good work of this task force advances the cause of protecting roadside first responders, but there is still more work to be done.”

The task force was formed in the wake of the roadside deaths of two Illinois State Police Troopers Brooke Jones Storey and Christopher Lambert in 2019. The crashes were the result of motorists' failure to comply with the Move Over law. Comprised of 17 members and chaired by Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly, the task force met five times throughout 2020 to find ways to educate drivers, promote compliance and prevent further tragedies.

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## ADDONE/MOVE OVER

The Move Over Task Force recommendations include:

- Adding improvements to the existing Illinois' Move Over Law. As written, the law requires vehicles to make a lane change (Move Over) from the stationary authorized emergency vehicle. If a lane change is not available, vehicles must reduce their speed. The Task Force believes for vehicles to "proceed with due caution," they should always reduce speed. Therefore, laws should say "Move Over *AND* Slow Down, as opposed to Move Over *OR* Slow Down.
- Inclusion of distracted driving as an aggravating factor for violations of the Move Over Law.
- Continued support of federal legislation, such as the Protecting Roadside First Responders Act. The Task Force agrees "Move Over" laws should be a new national safety priority in addition to existing federal grant program to increase public awareness
- More flexibility within the Illinois Procurement Code to make public safety-informed decisions on what is best for first responders when it comes to the health and safety of the public. The Task Force recommends the General Assembly pass legislation to encourage swifter acquisition of necessary public safety technology and equipment in the Illinois Procurement Code.
- Encourage the Illinois Department of Transportation to amend crash reports to capture "Move Over" law crashes and the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts to amend traffic citations to included a box to denote "Move Over" law violations. This would allow the better, more precise collection of data across all law enforcement agencies.
- Encourage all organizations with traffic safety-oriented missions to continue their efforts educating the public on the Move Over laws and to continue to research and develop new technology and evaluate what other law enforcement agencies are doing to mitigate the risk.

"We have lost so many first responders unnecessarily as they do their jobs on the side of the road," said State Sen. Dan McConchie, who served on the task force. "It is the job of every driver to slow down, move over and do everything possible to protect our law enforcement, fire and EMS, and highway workers who are willingly putting themselves in harm's way every day. I hope this task force's work will help us save lives. I look forward to continuing to work on this issue in the months and years to come to make Illinois roads safer for everyone."

"The task force is part of the ongoing commitment to safety for emergency personnel and all motorists," said State Rep. Jay Hoffman, who also served on the task force. "I'm proud of the task force's efforts to increase public awareness so everyone knows to slow down and move over to protect law enforcement and other roadside first responders."

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## **ADDTWO/Move Over**

The Move Over Task Force also investigated crash-avoidance technology, including systems that notify drivers by way of an alert that they are approaching an emergency vehicle on the shoulder, allowing more time to slow down and move over earlier. The ISP began the implementation of technology to reduce the amount of time that ISP officers spend on the roadside working crashes, conducting inspections and traffic stops. The ISP also announced new squad cars will now have push bumpers to help remove traffic obstructing vehicles from roads where possible.

On January 1, 2020, the violations for Illinois' Move Over (Scott's) Law increased. Fines are now no less than \$250 for a first offense and no less than \$750 for a subsequent offense. If the violation involves property damage, the violator's driver's license will be suspended for a mandatory period of anywhere between 3 to 12 months. If the violation results in an injury to another person, the violator's driver's license will be suspended for a mandatory period of anywhere between 6 months and two years.

In 2019, the Illinois State Police reported 72 squad car crashes, with 27 of those crashes related to Move Over violations. The ISP issued 6,570 citations and 3,627 warnings statewide for Move Over violations in 2019.

During a global pandemic with stay-at-home orders and an altered mission for the ISP, state police issued 2,046 citations and 2,102 written warnings statewide for Move Over violations in 2020. There were 29 squad car crashes, with 15 of those related to Move Over Violations in 2020. Two of those crashes occurred on the same day – May 23, 2020 – one in Cook County and the other in Will County. Both officers survived, although one sustained serious injuries.

To see details on Move Over crashes involving ISP personnel, please go to: <https://isp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=8fbb1df8739049029a01443f844d1934>

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