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Lacy sues state officials over law, Champaign senator seeks clarity

DANVILLE—Vermilion County State's Attorney Jacqueline Lacy is taking state officials to court to stop provisions of a crime bill approved last year that will take effect in January.

Lacy issued a press release Tuesday, along with the 26-page complaint which was filed at 4:25 p.m. Tuesday in the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court in Danville.

"As the Chief Legal Officer in Vermilion County, I am compelled to inform those that I have sworn to protect that the proposals set forth in House Bill 3652, now Public Act



LACY

101-652, pose a serious threat to public safety, specifically to victims of and witnesses to violent crimes in our community," she said in the release.

Her press statement outlined the history of bill that became law, stating that on January 10, 2021, state Sen. Elgie R. Sims Jr., affixed a 604-page amendment to HB 3653 that, in addition to sweeping changes in law enforcement operations, conduct and use of force, also included the bulk of the bail modification provisions. At 3 a.m. January 13, 2021, was amended again by Sims, becoming 764 pages long. It was debated at approximately

4:30 a.m. and called for a vote in the Senate, where it was passed by the Democrat super-majority, Lacy said.

That same morning, the bill was sent to the House, where Rep. Justin Slaughter became its chief sponsor. It was passed to the Rules Committee and was immediately passed from the committee, receiving exactly the 60 votes needed to pass the House. It was sent to Gov. J.B. Pritzker on February 4, 2021 and he signed it into law on February 22, 2021.

The increase in the number of pages from what was originally introduced to what became the final document, was not the only arresting difference, Lacy said in her release. Amendment 2 of the bill increased the number of issues covered by the amendment from the "narrow issue of voter registration for incarcerated individuals to a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to: creation or modification of at least 17 acts, task forces, criminal laws and boards," she said.

"In short, this poorly drafted bill containing ill-conceived directives is an effort to systematically dismantle law enforcement, which, in turn, would affect the integrity of every investigation, prosecution and safety of every citizen of our community. We must stand with the men and women of law enforcement who consistently

See LACY on other side

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Briefly

Electronics recycling

Thomas Electronics Recycling will again be in Hoopeston, from 10 a.m. –2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 at the McFerren Park Annex. All electronics will be accepted

Obituaries

FORSHIER - Richard Glenn “Dick” Forshier Sr., 95, of Hoopeston, died at 9:10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 1 p.m. until the 3 p.m. celebration of his life at Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery, with military rites by Hoopeston American Legion Post #384. Memorials are suggested to donor’s choice. Condolences may be shared at www.blurtonfuneralhomes.com.

LONG - Ronald P. “Squeek” Long, 71, of Watseka, died Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, at home. Visitation will be 1 p.m. until the 4 p.m. funeral Saturday at Baier Funeral Home, Watseka. Burial will be at a later date in Sugar

and all will be free except wood televisions, projection televisions and broken televisions, which will be \$30 each. Disposing of tube televisions will cost \$25 each and flat screen televisions will be \$5.

Cash with exact change is required to recycle those items.

Bulk garbage day

Bulk garbage day, for Hoopeston residents only, will be held from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday at Hoopeston City

Lacy continued from other side

stand up for us.

“Therefore, I have filed a motion for declaratory judgment and injunctive relief in my official capacity as Vermilion County State’s Attorney and on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois,

Lacy is requesting the court find that Public Act 101-652 violates Article 1, section 8.1(a)(9); Article 1, section 9, Article II, section 1; and Article IV, section 8(d) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 and declare the law null and void.

Lacy is also requesting a preliminary injunction to pre-

Hall parking lot.

Residents are limited to one load per bulk day and must unload their own load or bring someone to help.

Dumping of electronics, appliances, paint, liquids, tires, batteries, yard waste, construction/demolition material or anything that fits in the provided blue totes is not allowed. Items from apartments with a dumpster will not be allowed and items from businesses and contractors will not be permitted.

vent the enforcement of any bail provisions in Public Act 101-652 until the case can be fully litigated.

As Lacy seeks to have the law stopped a Champaign state senator would like to reword provisions of the law, known as the SAFE-T Act.

Democrat Sen. Scott Bennett filed a bill proposing that the act’s definition of “willful flight.” Currently, the act states, “Simple past no-appearance in court is not evidence of future intent to evade prosecution.” Bennett’s change would change the verbiage to say non-appearances is “conclusive evidence of future intent to evade prosecution.”

Bennett is also suggesting changes in wording broadening conditions under which the court could deny pretrial release, including situations in which the charge could mean life imprisonment for the defendant; a serious risk exists if the defendant, if released, would pose a danger to other people in the community or would not appear in court as scheduled; and if there is a serious risk the defendant would threaten, injure or intimidate jurors or witnesses or obstruct justice.

He would clarify that cash bail will end for those arrested on or after January 1, 2023. Currently, some information sources report that anyone currently jailed on offenses for which they could not post bond would be released when that provision goes into effect on January 1.

A provision of the law not expected to change is that, come January 1, Illinois become the first state to eliminate cash bail entirely.

Weather

Sunny today, High 64. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 40. Tomorrow, sunny. High 68, low 43.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

City of Hoopeston is seeking applications for full time position at the Water and Sewer Department. Applicants must have a HS diploma or equivalent, Class B CDL or ability to get one, a positive attitude with a strong work ethic, and a willingness to learn. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. or online at cityofhoopeston.com/employment/.

City of Hoopeston is seeking applicants for a full time Street and Alley Department position. Must have HS diploma or equivalent, Class B CDL with air brake endorsement or the ability to get one, and willingness to perform all duties required by the department. Applications are available online at cityofhoopeston.com/employment or City Hall Administration Office, 301 W Main

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

Fall help wanted at United Prairie, 18979 E 2850 N Rd., Hoopeston. Call Jordan Reese, (217) 888-0164 (office) or (217) 918-2876 (cell).

Fast Lanes is looking for experienced cooks for some breakfasts, days and evenings. If interested come to Fast Lanes, 719 W. Elm. NO PHONE CALLS.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is HIRING, starting pay \$18/hour. Apply at www.full-fill.com or applications available onsite. EOE

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12406/0

HOUSES FOR RENT

Hoopeston: Hoopeston for rent, Large 4 bedroom house, 2 bath, new furnace and a/c, washer dryer room. Call or text for details 217-495-2274.

NOTICES

Contents of shed #46, Manquell Cain, at Budget Mini Storage Rt. 9 and 6th Ave. Hoopeston, IL will be disposed of on October 1, 2022, per section 95-4 of Illinois Self Storage Facility Act.

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