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For immediate release

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Statement -
Police and Community Relations Improvement Act
SB 1304 – Public Act 099-0352

Signed by Governor Rauner on August 12, 2015

Illinois police departments are committed to making their communities and citizens as safe as possible. We hope that communities are noticing the proactive initiatives of many police departments to engage in new, positive ways with citizens. We are committed to building trust and to rebuilding trust where necessary. As such, a law allowing the use of body cameras was the association's number one priority this session. So the first thing we want to say is that we recognize this technology's value to citizens and police departments alike, and we believe many police departments will take a close look at using body cameras in the next year or two.

With that in mind, the Illinois police chiefs make the following commitments:

- To work with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board on policies that must be written before police departments and other law enforcement agencies can use body cameras to the fullest extent of the law.
- **To provide training sessions to our members this fall to help departments implement the law. Watch our weekly bulletins for more details.**
- To assist police departments throughout the state in understanding the benefits to police and citizens of having police officers wear body cameras. In fact, we have already begun to offer our members training on using body cameras. At the same time, we recognize that body cameras are not mandatory for police departments. This provides departments with discretion.
- To educate our communities, citizens and media about what is commonly called the “stop and frisk” section of the law, its ramifications to public safety, and when citizens should expect to receive a “stop receipt” after interaction with a police officer.

We ask citizens to recognize that this law has new reporting requirements in addition to allowing for the use of new technologies. That means law enforcement agencies will need some time to train their departments about the new requirements and obtain the new technology. In some communities, it may be prohibitively expensive to buy and use body cameras and pay for the storage of vast amounts of video data. Those decisions must be made at the local level, and the use of body cameras has not been made mandatory by this act.

The sponsors of the bill took several body camera and police reform bills and consolidated them in the last week of the session. We worked with the sponsors on different aspects of the original bills and the consolidated bill, and after it passed, we strongly encouraged the governor to veto parts of it.

We believe some parts of the law may prove to be counterproductive to the positive community policing efforts that are regaining prominence throughout the state. Combined, our departments have thousands of positive interactions with citizens every day, and as we implement the new law at the local level, we vow to maintain our high standards in service to our communities.

The full text of the bill is [available here](#).